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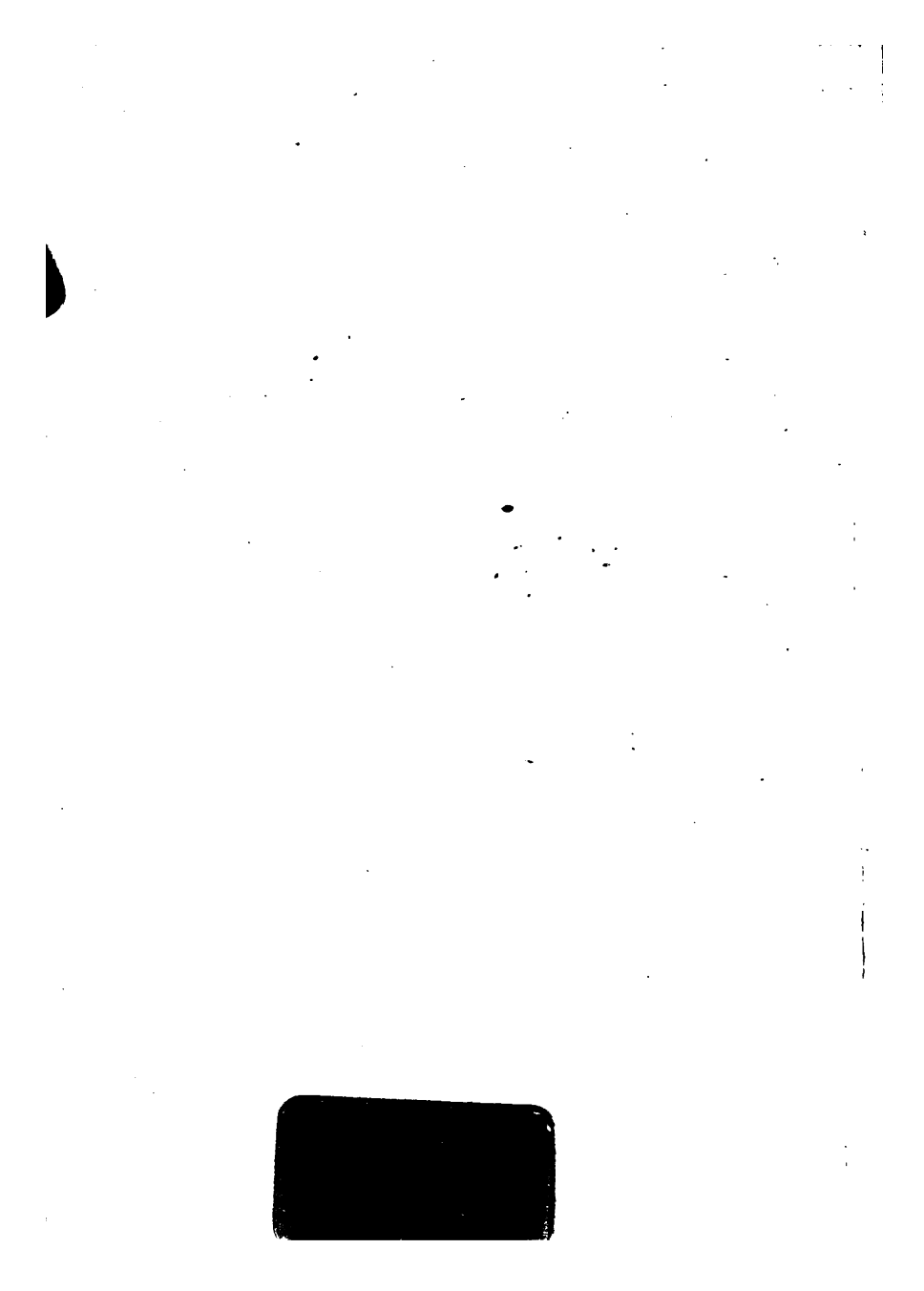
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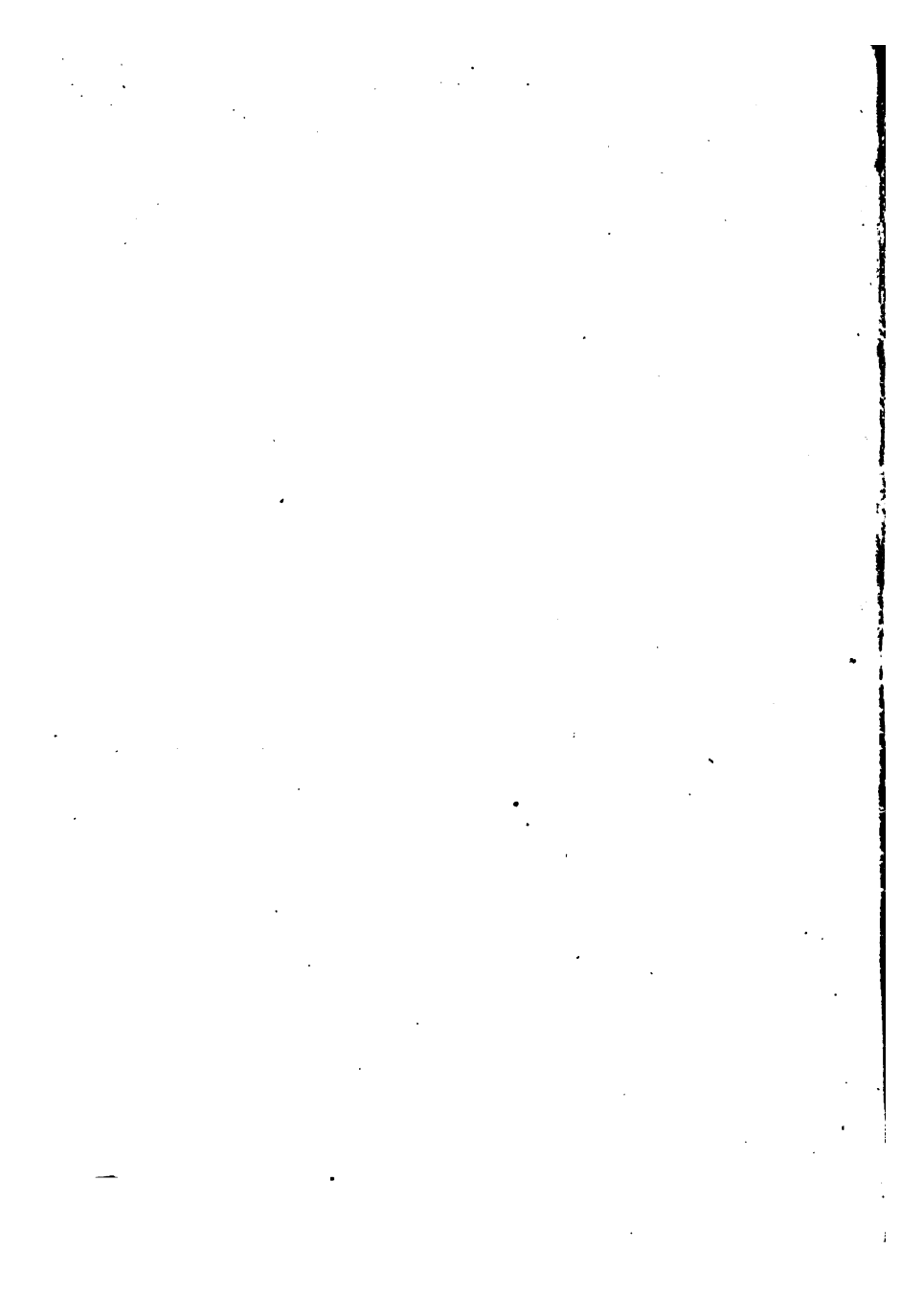
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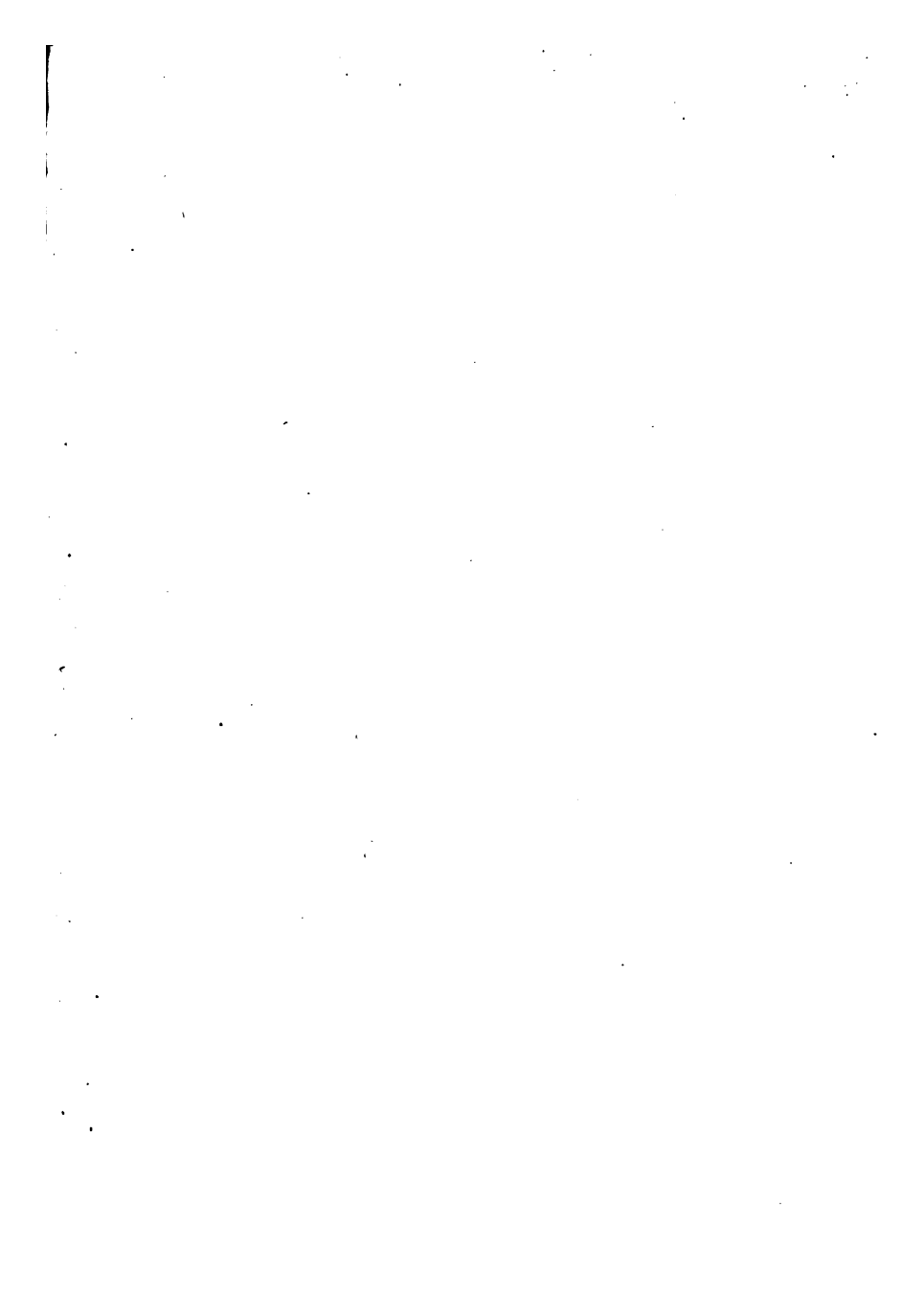
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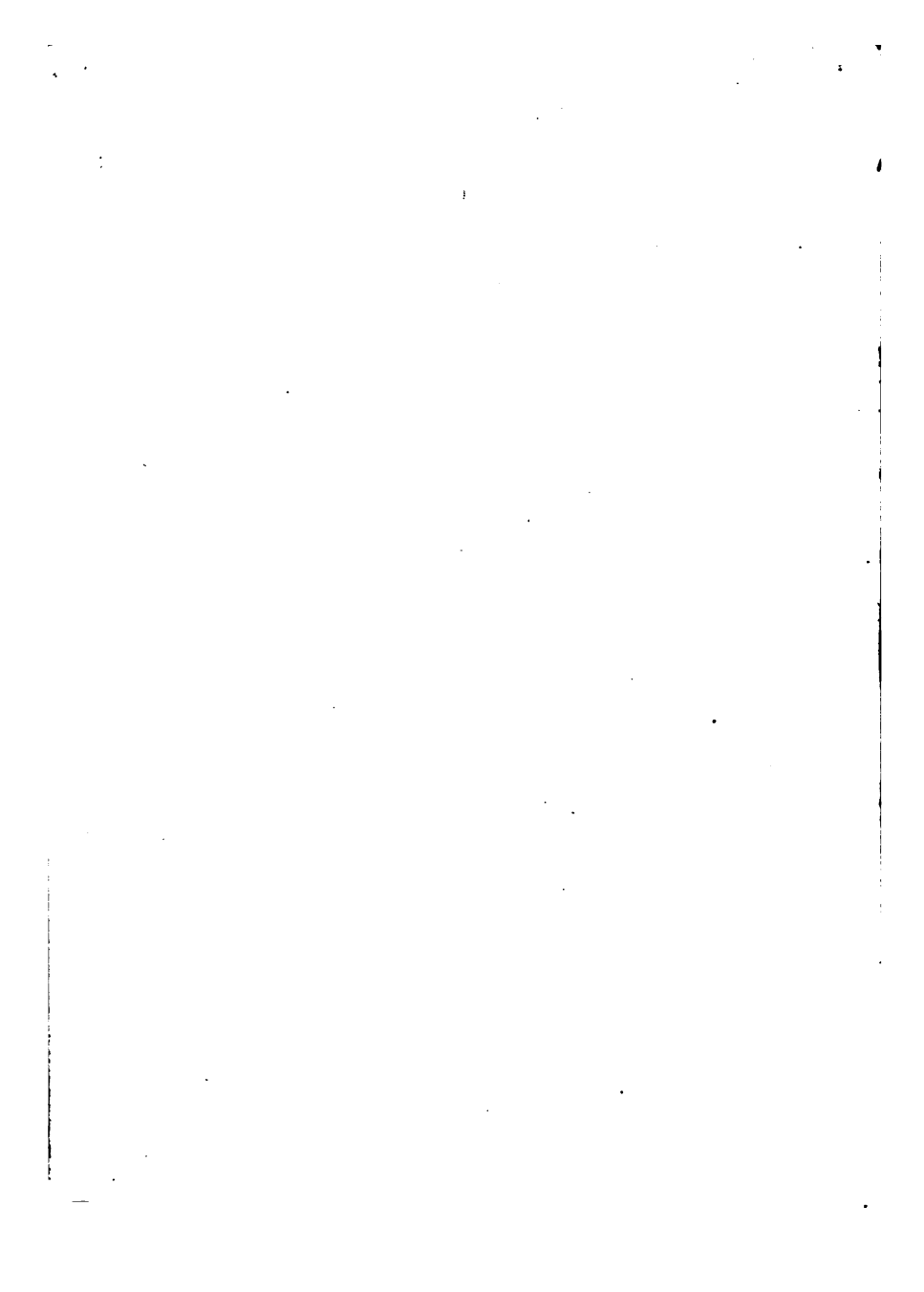


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**WILL T. HALE.**

# GREAT SOUTHERNER

BEING

A SERIES OF SHORT STORIES BY  
STAFFS, JUN. MILITARY AND NAVAL  
ORATORS, JURISTS, AND  
MEN OF LITERATURE.

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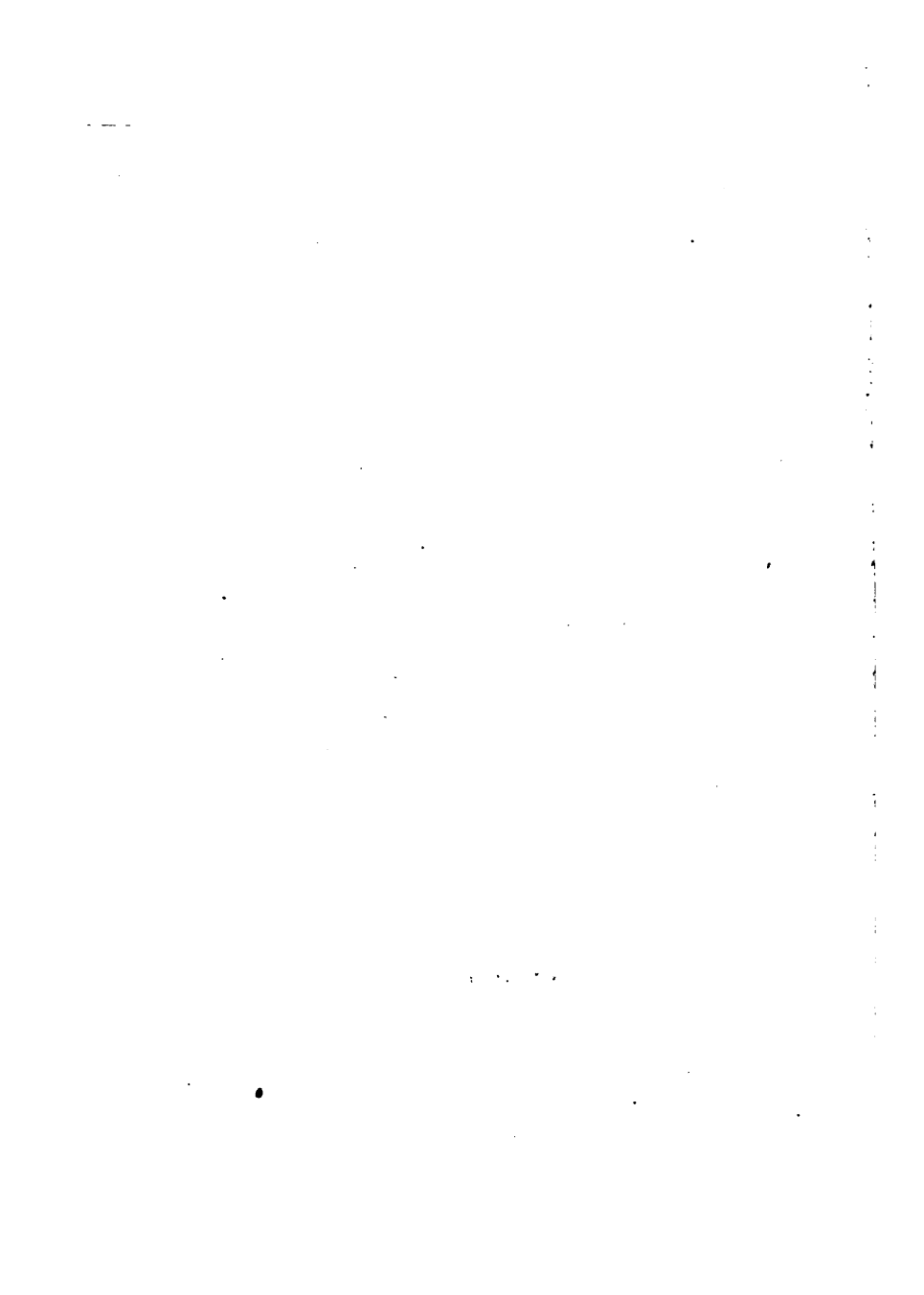
BY WILLIAM T. HALL,

AUTHOR OF "BACKWARD," "THE SOUTHERN ARMY," "THE  
GREAT SOUTHERNER," ETC.

VOLUME 1

NASHVILLE, TENN.: PUBLISHED BY THE  
PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH,  
LARGE A. SMITH AGENTS.  
1900.

CLANNA



# GREAT SOUTHERNERS.

BEING

A SERIES OF SHORT SKETCHES OF  
STATESMEN, MILITARY CAPTAINS,  
ORATORS, JURISTS, PREACHERS,  
MEN OF LITERATURE, ETC.

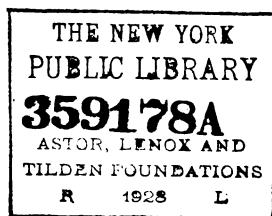
ILLUSTRATED WITH HALF-TONE LIKENESSES.

BY WILL T. HALE,  
AUTHOR OF "BACKWARD TRAIL," "AN AUTUMN LANE AND  
OTHER POEMS," ETC.

VOLUME I.

NASHVILLE, TENN.; DALLAS, TEX.:  
PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.  
BARBER & SMITH, AGENTS.  
1900.

M. S. M.



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## INTRODUCTION.

THE most enlarging of all studies is the study of human history, and all history is at bottom only biography. It was with this view that the editor of the *Children's Visitor*, in which the following sketches first appeared, arranged for their preparation.

Mr. Will T. Hale, who has acquired a national reputation for both his prose and poetic writings, was chosen to do the work on account of his genius for historic treatment, combined with a broad and generous spirit, which was a guaranty against any offensive sectionalism. How well he has done his work has already been attested by the unusual popularity of the sketches while appearing currently in the *Visitor*, and by a corresponding demand for their publication in this permanent form.

It was deemed wise to establish such a series as that which bears the title "Great Southerners" for the purpose of more accurately informing our children and young people touching those men who in various life works have reflected credit upon the land which gave them birth. There are several reasons which justify a special treatment of those great men who have belonged to our own section. Only two of the reasons need here be mentioned: 1. The Southern and Southwestern States of the Union constitute in an important sense a distinct commonwealth of thought and sentiment, and therefore demand a somewhat special treatment. 2. The situation through the last thirty years of our history

(iii)

Smith Brough 23 Feb. 1883

has been such that this section has been neglected in the general distribution of credits, and the balance needs to be restored in such a spirit as to broaden rather than to make narrow. It cannot but foster the truly national spirit in our young people to have an orderly and just exhibit of the immortal part which their ancestors have taken in the origination and development of the greatest of the nations. It is also well to illustrate in the reading of the young the fact that statesmen alone, however great they may be, cannot make a great nation. The statesman can no more construct and conduct a great and enduring commonwealth without the preacher than society can live without religion. Nor can these chief influences, when combined, suffice. The teacher, the literatus, the lawyer, the doctor, the tradesman, the farmer, the artisan, the seaman, the soldier, and others, are less prominent, but in their places no less important, elements of a complete civilization. It will be found, therefore, that the biographical range of this volume is unusually broad, and, in a sense, incomplete. Another volume at least will be necessary to anything like a representative list of those men who have put the country under lasting obligations by the character of their work.

This volume is sent forth with the hope that it may prove an inspiration to a lofty patriotism and to all nobility of character in those who read it.

JAMES ATKINS,  
Sunday School Editor.

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# GREAT SOUTHERNERS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

MR. PAUL LEICESTER FORD, one of the latest biographers of Washington, avers that, while men have been accustomed to look on the Father of His Country as dignified and quite correct while a young man, he was, on the contrary, hot-tempered, unusually susceptible to the charms of the gentler sex, very particular indeed about the cut of his clothes, if not a dandy, and inclined to convivial habits. We are disposed to doubt the report as to his convivial habits when we reflect that soon after he had reached the age of twenty-one, being present at the burial of Gen. Braddock, the chaplain of whose army was wounded, he was selected from all others to read the funeral service; and, furthermore, on writing to his mother after the battle on the bloody field of



Monongahela, he refers to "the powerful dispensations of Providence" in protecting him "beyond all human probability or expectation."

These things mean much to one who can put two and two together. They lead us to believe that the young soldier must have been pure and reverential even in his thoughts. Mr. Ford may or may not be correct in his statement that Washington was an outrageously bad speller. The latter may have written on an occasion after seeing a young lady who revived the recollection of his rejection by another, "Whereas was I to live more retired from young Women, I might in some manner eliviate my sorrows by burying that chaste and troublesome Passion in the grave of oblivion or etarnall forgetfulness." But this cannot affect our veneration for one who, whatever may have been his lack of education, has so impressed the world with his deeds that no nation has yet hesitated to grant that he was great in the truest sense of the word. Such discoveries, though ever so true, cannot mar his glory any more than the fading of one rose can mar the charm of spring with its myriad of flowers.

George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Va., February 22, 1732. His first military services were given to England in the troubles between the mother country and France. He was at an early age appointed adjutant gen-

eral, with the rank of major, to inspect and exercise the militia in one of the districts into which Virginia was divided on account of French encroachments and threatened Indian depredations. Later on he was assigned to one of the grand military divisions of the colony. He was appointed commissioner in 1753 to make a six-hundred-mile trip through the wilderness to find out from the commander of the French forces why he was invading the king's dominions. He made the journey successfully, though just finishing his twenty-first year; and on his return became, in the words of Irving, "the rising hope of Virginia." After this he saw considerable service, always conducting himself gallantly and heroically.

Although he had married on January 6, 1759, (his wife being Mrs. Martha Custis), and had resigned his commission as a colonial officer, he was not allowed to enjoy private life. He was chosen a delegate to the Virginia House of Burgesses. His services in a military line had been estimated at their true value, and when he arrived to enter upon his new civil duties he was tendered the thanks of the House. So surprised was he at this manifestation that he could not respond. "Sit down, Mr. Washington," said the Speaker. "Your modesty equals your valor, and that surpasses the power of any language I pos-

sess." He continued a member of the House of Burgesses fourteen or fifteen years.

As might be conjectured from his prominence and the patriotism he showed in the growing troubles between the colonies and Great Britain, which finally ended in the Revolutionary struggle, he was elected a delegate to the first Continental Congress in 1774. He, Patrick Henry, and others repaired at once to Philadelphia, where Congress met. This was an important Congress, held as it was with closed doors, for the papers prepared there to be sent to the government form a proud part of our history. Of these papers and that Congress Lord Chatham said in a speech: "In all my reading and observation—and it has been a favorite study (I have read Thucydides and have studied and admired the master statist of the world) that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion under such a complication of difficult circumstances no nation or body of men can stand in preference to the General Congress at Philadelphia." We can imagine the part taken by Washington at this session when we recall the assertion of Patrick Henry to the effect that for solid information and sound judgment Col. Washington was the greatest man on the floor.

To the thoughtful mind there is much in the career of the Virginian up to this time to sug-

gest the guiding hand of God. There is more in it than the suggestion of the trend of events in a Greek tragedy. He was learning the arts of war in the battles with the French, which were to be of service to him when called on later to lead the colonies to independence: he was gaining wisdom and experience during the long years he was in the House of Burgesses, which were to prepare him for the duties of guiding the ship of State when independence was accomplished. Bancroft has very properly said that if it had not been for him the country could not have been freed nor formed into a union nor set in successful motion as a government. And the elements of prophecy were not lacking; for many years before, just after one of the bloodiest battles with the French for supremacy, in a sermon preached to the soldiers, Rev. Samuel Davies said, in praising the Virginia troops: "As a remarkable instance of this I may point out to the public that heroic youth, Col. Washington, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country."

Washington was again sent to Congress in 1775, and was soon unanimously elected commander in chief of the Continental forces raised or to be raised in defense of American liberty. The English forces had already taken possession

of Boston; the war was being waged in earnest; the army of England in this country was then twenty-four or twenty-five thousand. Undaunted, he set out on his mission, and at an early day took formal command of the army, which numbered only seventeen thousand, including twenty-five hundred unfit for duty. Even at the time of the declaration of independence the men under him numbered not more than twenty thousand, six or seven thousand being sick or absent on furlough.

The American force was assuredly very discouraging in point of numbers with which to expect to wrest almost a continent from the sway of one of the most powerful nations on the globe. The world to-day wonders at the audacity of it. But hope is worth very much in the contests with power and disaster in this life. Washington had that, and it never deserted him through the most trying ordeals of the eight-years' struggle, finally leading to the successes which Frederick the Great is said to have declared the most brilliant achievements recorded in military annals. Not only had he to cope with a powerful army and navy, but a considerable faction in Congress were turned against him through the intrigues of Brig.-Gen Conway, who endeavored to have him relieved of his command. The treason of Arnold was a most harassing circum-

stance, and the mutiny of many of his soldiers required the greatest tact and firmness on his part.

After peace was declared he was elected the first President, and succeeded himself four years later. Retiring to his plantation, he became interested in the affairs of the farm, living in comparative peace until 1798, when, on account of a threatened war between France and America, he was again made lieutenant general and commander in chief of the American army. War being averted, he retired to Mount Vernon, and died on the night of December 14, 1799.

An eminent historian avers that Washington's place in the history of mankind is well-nigh without a fellow. He has been sung by such poets as Byron and Tennyson, and praised by statesmen like Lord Brougham and Gladstone. And indeed he is one of the most wonderful figures of all time. Unusually modest, he was fearless and heroic; scrupulous to a farthing in keeping his accounts, he declined all remuneration for many of his important public services beyond the reimbursements of his outlays; loving home life passionately, he was ready to forsake it for his country even in old age; and he is the first of that type of Christian soldiers who have added special luster to the South.

## PATRICK HENRY.

---



It has been said by some one that circumstances make men, and there is much truth in it; but sometimes men may assist to bring about those circumstances which make them famous or important.

Of the latter class was Patrick Henry. Not only did he practice and study that he might succeed, but, as we shall see by and by, he was one of the prime factors making an epoch that would give a wider scope for his talents and himself a more extensive audience. Before arriving at his majority he did not promise distinction. He was married when quite young, and, being thrown on his own resources at an early age, he did not succeed in a financial way. He failed as a farmer and as a merchant, and when he finally took up the profession of law it was some time before it was thought he would be a success in this. When one fails he should not give up in despair, remembering that many who afterwards

reached distinction have known what it was to have their plans miscarry and their hopes seemingly blighted. Henry did not despair, but kept trying until he forced the public to recognize his worth.

One of the first cases in which he began to win distinction was known as the "Parson's Cause." He made a logical argument, and the people saw that he had now become eloquent also. From this time on he had a paying practice.

In this same speech he showed that he had studied, and had decided opinions on subjects pertaining to government, and he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses when twenty-nine years of age. Here, it may said, commenced his determined stand against Great Britain—his aid in bringing about the circumstances hinted at awhile ago, which made him honored and famed. The British Parliament in 1765 passed the unjust stamp act. He hated everything that savored of tyranny, and introduced resolutions against it. He was attracting public attention by his course in the House of Burgesses, and the former leaders therein were becoming jealous of his growing reputation. When he introduced the resolutions they opposed them. Henry was determined, and made one of his best speeches. Thomas Jefferson said that it surpassed anything he had ever heard. The result was that five of

his resolutions against the act were carried, the country became aroused, and the objectionable law could not be enforced. The unjust laws of a country should be obeyed until they can be modified or repealed; but the colonists regarded the stamp act as a blow at their rights, and, as none of them were allowed to have a voice in making or repealing laws, they resolved to oppose it.

But after awhile (about nine or ten years later) he struck England one of the heaviest blows she had yet received from the colonies. Indeed, it is a strong assertion to make, but perhaps this blow was instrumental in bringing about the freedom of a continent. The colonists had by this time become so opposed to harsh English laws that they thought they must fight for their rights. They formed a Continental Congress, and Henry, Washington, and others were delegates from Virginia. A Tory member, Joseph Galloway, introduced a plea to bring about conciliation between the mother country and the colonies. If it could have been sustained, America would have become about like Canada—still a part of Great Britain, but ruled more wisely and justly than the colonies. It seemed for a while that it would be sustained; a majority of the delegates were for the plea, and even Washington did not oppose it in debate. War, they

knew, was a fearful thing, and England was strong and the colonies were weak. But Henry had no faith in Great Britain, and no patience with the course of her government. He made a speech against the plea, and it was defeated by the vote of one colony. We remember Henry mainly because he was an orator, but we should not forget that on that occasion he made the United States a possibility.

This was perhaps the greatest service he rendered his country, as little as we have thought of it, for all the colonists were thus bound by their delegates, while Great Britain saw that war was now a settled fact. However, the passage in his life that is considered the most brilliant was when, attending the second revolutionary convention of Virginia, he made his greatest speech—that delivered on March 23, 1775. The convention met in a church in Richmond. The delegates, it seemed, were hoping against hope for something to occur yet to bring about peace; Henry had made up his mind that peace without a long and bloody struggle was impossible. They continued to dally; he thundered an individual declaration of war. The result of his speech was marvelous; the resolutions to prepare a plan for embodying, arming, and disciplining the militia to resist the invasion of Great Britain were adopted.

And now as to the delivery of the speech with which every schoolboy has some acquaintance. If Henry had not been an orator, he might have been a great actor. He possessed strong emotion and passion. His versatility was such that he could assume at once any emotion which might best produce an effect. He had a matchless control of the organs of expression, and his mightiest feelings were sometimes indicated and carried to the hearer by a long pause, aided by an eloquent aspect and some significant use of the fingers. John Randolph, of Roanoke, declared that he was Shakespeare and Garrick combined.

The first part of the speech was delivered with calmness and deliberation; but his whole demeanor changed when he spoke the words: "I repeat it, sir—we must fight! An appeal to arms, and to the God of hosts, is all that is left us." After this his manner deepened into intense dramatic power, carrying the audience with him. An old clergyman who was present stated that his voice rose louder and louder until the walls of the building, and all within them, seemed to shake and rock. Finally his pale face and glowing eyes became terrible to look upon. Men leaned forward in their seats, with their heads strained forward, their faces pale, and their eyes glaring like the speaker's. His last

exclamation, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" was like the shout of a leader which turns back the rout of battle.

Of course the great orator was honored with the best offices in the gift of his State. He was a number of times Governor of Virginia; and Washington, when President, offered to make him Secretary of State, and later Chief Justice of the United States, but he declined.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON.

---



IN a speech made before the English House of Commons in the year 1775 Edmund Burke, referring to America, said: "In no country perhaps in the world is the law so general a study. The profession itself is numerous and powerful, and in most provinces it takes

the lead. The greater number of the delegates sent to Congress were lawyers. But all who read—and most do read—endeavor to obtain some smattering in that science."

The number of fine lawyers at the beginning of the Revolution in America was large, sure enough. Where all the trees in a forest are tall it takes a giant to tower above the rest. The fact that Thomas Jefferson rose to eminence very early after beginning the practice of the law, and among so many able members of the bar, is an indication of his intellectual strength and superiority.

There was to be great need for such men, for

a time was coming when they would have to make laws for a new nation and help to put it in proper running order. When the first war with England came on, Jefferson was not known beyond the borders of Virginia, his native State, but it was not long after it arose before his reputation reached England. He was a member of the first and second Continental Congresses, and at the session held when the delegates resolved on a course to pursue he was one of the committee of five appointed to prepare a draft of the Declaration of Independence, the other members being Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston. He became chairman, and was asked to write the document now so famous.

Resigning his seat before the expiration of his term, on account of the ill health of his wife, he became a member of the Virginia Legislature, determined to purge the statute books of unsuitable laws and have others of importance enacted. Among the movements of lasting good he set on foot at this period were the doing away with the law of entailments (for the perpetual holding of lands) and the abolishment of the connection of Church and State. Some of the maxims we see and hear quoted to-day originated with him while in the Virginia Legislature, such as: "Government has nothing to do with opinion;" "Com-

pulsion makes hypocrites, not converts;" and "It is error alone which needs the support of government; truth can stand *by itself*."

The decimal currency now in use in this country is a result of his efforts while a member of Congress in 1783. The idea originated with Gouverneur Morris, of New York, but it was simplified and made practical by Jefferson, he proposing a system of dollars and cents, with dimes, half dimes, and a gold coin of ten dollars, with such subdivisions as we now have.

After the war he resided for several years in Europe—not through choice, but in a governmental capacity. He there became impressed with certain opinions, which he advocated on his return to America. They became a part of the doctrines of the Democratic party, and this is how he became known as the originator of that political organization. One of these ideas is that the will of the majority is the natural law of every society.

Jefferson was prejudiced toward everything which smacked of royalty. He advocated simplicity, and desired to make the republic something more than a mere name. When he was elected President he put his theories into practice. All American boys have heard references to "Jeffersonian democracy" and "Jeffersonian simplicity."

It is held by some that the salaries of our officials of the present day are not large enough for them to live in the style they should and be respected. Salaries were much less in Jefferson's day. While Secretary of State, during Washington's administration, he received only \$3,500 a year. This was inadequate; for, though Jefferson advised simplicity, he at his home entertained elaborately. When we consider this, with the fact that he served his country at a financial loss nearly all the time for forty-four years—almost half a century—it is no wonder that his once great fortune took wings, and that when he retired from office he was impoverished. While leaving the public service poor is an indication that one has not taken advantage of his position in a selfish desire to make money, the thoughtless turning loose of a vast fortune and leaving himself dependent in old age may not have reflected favorably on the practical sense of Jefferson.

But, despite his comparative poverty in age, and the inconveniences he was put to on account of it, he managed to be of great use to his State, for he devoted himself to the cause of education. In fact, the inscription on his tomb, which was prepared by his own hand, shows that he considered the work of his latest years of as much importance as the two greatest achievements of his earlier days. The inscription reads:

Here lies buried Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and the Father of the University of Virginia.

The English philosopher, Carlyle, has declared: "That there should one man die ignorant who had a capacity for knowledge—this I call a tragedy, were it to happen more than twenty times in a minute, as by some computations it does." Who shall say that Jefferson's estimate of his last efforts for mankind, as shown in his obituary, was not a correct one? In an enlightened population rests the hope of continued prosperity.

## HENRY LEE.

---

THERE is much said concerning the "New South," referring to this section in the after-the-war days. The words were coined by some overzealous person who was anxious to propitiate a certain element which has always been antagonistic to the old régime, through envy more than anything else; for it is the part of envy to cry down that which it cannot equal or rise above.



There is no new South. It is substantially what it has always been: a land of patriots, strong men, noble women, where the love of the Constitution obtains and society is at its best. Some political questions have been settled, the institution of slavery swept away, and the conditions of classes somewhat changed; in all other respects the old Southern ways are cherished.

What an interesting section was Virginia, especially in the eighteenth century! The owner of the plantation was a baron in one respect,

with his slaves, lands, and "manorial hall;" in others he was a fellow-citizen, mixing with the common people and discussing political or other questions of interest to them. The life was such as to develop true greatness among the best classes—the intellectual power which dominated the government for more than fifty years, though the population of the South was numerically smaller than that of the North and East.

A product of that era was the family of Lee, distinguished in statesmanship, in war, and in society. The founder of the family in Virginia sprang from one of the oldest families in England, which received from William the Conqueror a princely estate in Essex. He was a member of the Privy Council of Charles I., and early in the reign of that monarch emigrated to Virginia. After him rose statesman after statesman and warrior after warrior, among them Richard Henry, Francis Lightfoot, William, Arthur, Henry, Robert E., and Fitzhugh Lee—making glorious the annals of more than two centuries.

The fame of Gen. Robert E. Lee has somewhat overshadowed the reputation of his father, Henry Lee, born at Leesylvania, Westmoreland County, Va., in 1756. The latter, however, deserves the title of great as soldier, statesman, and author. His mother was Miss Lucy Grymes,

a lady of great culture for the times, and beautiful. She was one of the colonial women for whom Washington entertained an unrequited affection. She is twice alluded to directly in his correspondence as the "lowland beauty;" and as we recall her charms—now fallen to dust, despite the effort of the artist to embody them in his colors—a few lines of Miss Lizette Woodworth Reese's poem on a colonial picture come to mind:

Out of the dusk stepped down  
Young Beauty on the stair;  
What need of April in the town  
When Dolly took the air?

Lilac the color there,  
So all in lilac she;  
Her kerchief hid from maids and men  
What was too white to see.

Good Stuart folk her kin,  
And bred in Essex vales!  
One looked her happy eyes within,  
And heard the nightingales.

It is worth noticing that her son in after life originated the expression which the public has as pat as any other in connection with her old lover, the first President: "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Henry Lee was a gallant soldier in the revolutionary war, and in 1778 was promoted to the

rank of major and placed in command of an independent partisan corps, which afterwards became known as "Lee's Legion," while the young commander won the nickname of "Light-Horse Harry." He was remarkable for conceiving plans of battle and the swiftness with which he executed them.

In 1786 he was called from his retirement at Stratford House, in Virginia, and entered upon official life, having been chosen a delegate to Congress. Later, in the convention called by Virginia to decide upon the ratification of the Federal Constitution, he ably seconded the efforts of James Madison and John Marshall in defense of that document, and won distinction for his eloquence, thus proving himself a man of many parts. Warriors are not expected to give much attention to oratory, though they may be discerning statesmen. Washington was not an impressive speaker; Jackson, though he had been a lawyer, did not excel in speech-making; and Grant was so brief in his addresses that he won the title of "the silent man." But Lee was so well known for his power in this line that, on the death of Washington, he was appointed to deliver an oration commemorating his services. On that occasion he used the expression quoted earlier in this sketch.

While Governor of Virginia the whisky in-

urrection broke out in Western Pennsylvania. President Washington appointed Lee as general to command the army sent against the insurgents, and perhaps his reputation as a fighter had as much to do in settling the affair without bloodshed as the formidable appearance of his army of fifteen thousand men.

In August, 1812, a Federalist newspaper (the *Republican*) published at Baltimore caused a riot by its conduct in opposing the war with England. The mob attacked the plant of the *Republican*, with the intention of destroying it. Lee happened to be in the city at the time, and in the effort to defend the property of the editor, who was his friend, received injuries from which he never recovered.

Besides being the father of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and distinguished in war and statesmanship, "Light-Horse Harry" Lee should have our gratitude for one of the most valuable histories written by an American in his day. It is called "Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States," and should not be allowed to go out of print.

## JAMES MONROE.

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THE Monroe doctrine is very dear to the hearts of Americans. Whenever a foreign country becomes involved with any of the republics of this hemisphere, as in the case a few years ago of England and Venezuela, we hear much said about the Monroe doc-

trine in the papers and by our statesmen. The person who gave the sentiment expression was James Monroe, fifth President of the United States.

And what is the doctrine which is loved in this country and held in respect by all foreign nations? It is contained in two paragraphs of a message sent to Congress on December 2, 1823, and may be briefly put in these words:

We should consider any attempt on the part of foreign powers to extend their system of government to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. Any interference would be viewed by this country as the

manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.

Plainly, the United States has become the guardian of the North and South American governments. Should any of them be invaded by foreign countries, the undertaking would be resisted by this republic, if the acquirement of territory should directly or indirectly be premeditated.

But Monroe's services to his country by no means end in the formulation of this warning to the powers to keep off American soil. When the Confederacy was first formed its weakness became apparent to him, and he thought seriously that we were verging toward a monarchical government, a system which was very distasteful to him. In behalf of the Confederacy he proposed measures whose value was summarized in this expression of John Quincy Adams: "They led first to the partial convention of delegates from five States, at Annapolis, in 1786, and then to the general convention in Philadelphia, in 1787, which prepared and proposed the Constitution of the United States. Whoever contributed to that event is justly entitled to the gratitude of the present age as a benefactor, and among them the name of Monroe should be conspicuously enrolled."

In the first years of the United States politics

was as bitter as it is to-day. Washington had many political enemies, and Monroe was one of the determined opponents of his Presidential administration. But Washington was not only a strategist in war, but he skillfully managed politics also. He fell on a plan to somewhat placate Monroe by making him Minister to France to succeed Gouveneur Morris. Monroe was known to be favorable to France, too, which country was now on somewhat unfriendly terms with the United States. On account of his undue cordiality to that nation, on his arrival there he was recalled; but when Thomas Jefferson was elected President he was again given the French mission. His services proved of invaluable gain to the United States, as, with the assistance of Robert R. Livingston, he effected the purchase of the extensive region known as Louisiana. The price paid France was 80,000,000 francs for her American possessions and the control of the mouth of the Mississippi River. England had been anxious for the prize, and when the deal was consummated Bonaparte said prophetically: "I have given to England a maritime rival that will sooner or later humble her pride."

During the second war with England Monroe was Secretary of War. It is thought by some critics that the conduct of the war was weak.

Washington was taken, and the British admiral, Cockburn, entered the Hall of Representatives at the head of a band of followers, and, springing into the Speaker's chair, shouted: "Shall this harbor of Yankee Democracy be burned? All for it say, 'Aye.'" The public buildings were burned, and it looked for a while as if the country would be ruined. It was a day of humiliation for Americans. But the administration probably did as well as any would have done under the circumstances. England was a great power, strong on land and sea, while America was as yet a babe among nations. Such reverses have occurred where the countries are mightier than the United States at that time. It may be pardonable here to say that any power would not find the taking of our capital so easy a job now. In the words of a modern dialect versifier:

The sun may set on our domains,  
'Tis true—we don't deny it.  
If others think that they can, too,  
All is, jest let 'em try it!

Monroe was President of the United States two terms. So popular was his first administration that his second election was almost unanimous. Only one electoral vote was cast in opposition, we believe.

To sum up, the principal subjects marking

Monroe's administration were: The defense of the Atlantic seaboard; the promotion of internal improvements, in which he took grounds that the general government should undertake only works of national significance, leaving minor improvements to the separate States; the conduct of the Seminole war; the acquisition of Florida by purchase; the great Missouri compromise relative to the extension of slavery; and the resistance to foreign interference in American affairs, formulated in the Monroe doctrine.

A notable event in his career is the fact that he served as a local magistrate after having been President. The prevailing principle of his life was that America should be for Americans.

## JOHN MARSHALL.

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Is the profession of law "the surest road to distinction?" It is related of Dr. Johnson that he was sitting with friends in an English inn once, when a neatly dressed, civil-mannered stranger entered. Curiosity led one of the company to wonder who he was. "I do not wish to slander any man," said Dr. Johnson, "but I would guess that he is a lawyer." This was evidently an effort at humor by the friend of Boswell.



Such a poor regard for lawyers did not exist in the United States, at least in the earlier days of the nation, for the lawyers made one of the mainstays of the new government.

John Marshall, statesman and jurist, was born in Virginia in 1755. He was a soldier of the Revolution, but took up the law after peace had been agreed upon, and entered with enthusiasm upon his chosen profession. In a short while he

was employed in every important case that came up in the State and United States courts in Virginia. In 1795, when forty years of age, he was offered the position of Attorney-General of the United States by Washington, but declined it.

When John Adams became President he appointed Marshall, Pinckney, and Elbridge Gerry joint envoys to France for the purpose of establishing diplomatic relations with that republic. The French were feeling sore because the United States would not tolerate their seizing British property and persons on board American vessels. During their stay in France, in the capacity of joint envoys, there occurred the celebrated intrigue of Talleyrand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, which placed the French government in the attitude of a footpad or solicitor of alms. When the envoys reached Paris they communicated with Talleyrand. They were met by M. Hollinguer, a secret agent of the minister. He explained that the French Directory was much displeased with President Adams's recent message to the American Congress, recommending preparations for war against France; but if the message were modified, money given to Talleyrand, and a loan made to the government, he had no doubt the envoys would be received. A second agent was sent to them, and referred to modifying the objectionable passages of the mes-

sage. "Gentlemen," he then said, "I will not disguise from you the fact that, this satisfaction being made, the essential part of the treaty must be made. It is necessary to pay money—to pay a great deal of money." This proposition was made time and again: fifty thousand pounds sterling for the shameless minister, besides the loan to the government. Talleyrand himself made the proposition to Mr. Gerry on one occasion.

Indignant at the attempt to extort a bribe from them, and at other insults, the envoys refused to hold further intercourse with France, and replied, when pressed for their reply: "It is no, no; not a sixpence!"

The hope of the envoys to treat with France failed, and Pinckney and Marshall were ordered to leave; while Gerry, being a Republican, was allowed to remain. Naturally these events created indignation in America. As Marshall afterwards said in his life of Washington, history will scarcely furnish the example of a nation not absolutely degraded, which has experienced from a foreign power such open contumely and undisguised insult as were thus offered the United States in the persons of their Ministers. But the country was then in a manner helpless.

When Marshall returned to the United States, in 1798, he was received with demonstrations of

respect; at a largely attended dinner given him in Philadelphia one of the toasts was: "Millions for defense; not a cent for tribute." Of Marshall's course in Europe President Adams said in a letter: "He has raised the American people in their own esteem; and, if the influence of truth and justice, reason and argument, is not lost in Europe, he has raised the consideration of the United States in that quarter of the world."

In 1799 Marshall was elected to Congress. While a member the principles that have since guided the courts and government of the United States in extradition cases were settled, and mainly settled through Marshall's efforts in the House. Jonathan Robbins, alias Thomas Nash, had been arrested in Charleston at the instance of the British Consul, on the charge of mutiny and murder on the British frigate *Hermione*. Under the writ of habeus corpus he was delivered to the British authorities in pursuance of the requisition of the British ministry upon the President and of a letter from the Secretary of State to the trial judge, advising the delivery. A determined assault was made on the administration. Resolutions censuring the President and the judge were offered in the House; but Marshall, in an eloquent speech, refuted the charges of law on which the resolutions were based, and they were defeated. That case, de-

fended by him, established a precedent, and is regarded as authority to-day.

When he became Chief Justice of the United States the great trial of Aaron Burr for treason and misdemeanor came up. Burr, it will be recalled, was a statesman who was once very popular not only in his native State (New York), but throughout America. He was hated by Alexander Hamilton, and that statesman was often instrumental in balking the former's ambitions. Burr challenged him to a duel, and Hamilton was killed. His political prospects after this were blighted; and, being still ambitious, he conceived the design, apparently, of conquering Texas and perhaps Mexico, if a sufficient following could be secured. When his plans were nearly matured the President of the United States, on October 27, 1806, issued a proclamation denouncing the enterprise. Burr was arrested in Mississippi, but escaped, and was then recaptured in Alabama. The trial was one of the most important state trials before the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. It took place at Richmond. Burr's lawyers were Edmund Randolph, John Wickham, John Baker, and Luther Martin. William Wirt was principal counsel for the United States. The jury was made up of the best men in the State, John Randolph, of Roanoke, being foreman. Though

President Jefferson wanted Burr convicted, Judge Marshall presided with rigid impartiality throughout, and held that the President himself could be summoned as a witness.

A great Englishman, referring to Goethe, says: "As his primary faculty, the foundation of all others, was intellect, depth, and force of vision, so his primary virtue was justice, was the courage to be just." Nothing in the life of Marshall was so exalting as the unswerving impartiality he displayed in this celebrated trial, even though a nation called in its excitement for Burr's conviction. An impartial holding of the scales not only overawes the criminal, but strengthens the faith of the law-abiding in our tribunals of justice.

## JAMES MADISON.

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At the age of twenty-five James Madison began to be known throughout Virginia for the range and solidity of his attainments. For minute and thorough knowledge of ancient and modern history and constitutional law he was unequalled perhaps by any American of the Revolutionary era, and only by Calhoun of a later period.



He was, at the beginning of his public life, in favor of measures that might increase the strength of the Federal government, though afterwards he became a very staunch supporter of State rights; and his whole career, as has been said, is calculated to illustrate the remark that "intelligent persistence is capable of making one person a majority."

Among his most important early services were his efforts in connection with the founding of the government. He was the originator of one of the successful compromises which have been

so often introduced in American politics to forestall or postpone the great crisis which finally came in the civil war of 1861-65. This was the compromise adjusting the distribution of representatives between the Northern and Southern States, in framing the Federal Constitution. The Southern people wanted to count slaves as population, while those of the North thought they should be classed as property, the positions of the two sections being reversed from what they were in 1783, when the question of taxation had come up. With the people at large, as well as with individuals, it makes a great difference as to whose ox is gored. He suggested, and it was agreed to, that in counting population, whether for direct taxation or for representation in the lower house of Congress, five slaves should be reckoned as three individuals. To secure the adoption of the Constitution it was absolutely necessary to satisfy South Carolina. This proposition of Madison's satisfied that State, and the scheme, then seriously thought of and perhaps entirely feasible at the time, of establishing a separate Confederacy of the Southern States was defeated. This three-fifths rule affected almost every political movement in America before the civil war.

But, while South Carolina's wishes were thus regarded, there was yet serious opposition to the

adoption of the Constitution. To explain and defend it Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay published a series of papers under the title of "The Federalist," which brought about ratification. "These are perhaps the ablest political essays in the English language," declares Prof. Brander Matthews in his introduction to a work on American literature. Political science has never been given to the world in such practical and profound manner.

In 1791 the Constitution again came up for discussion. It was claimed that it contained no bill of rights. To meet this objection Madison proposed, as a member of the first National House of Representatives, twelve amendments. The first ten became a part of the Constitution.

The Federalist party being in power, the famous alien and sedition laws were passed, under the leadership of Hamilton. These were opposed by the Republican-Democratic party, which greatly profited by the revulsion of the public mind against the acts; and in their discussion the question of State rights began to be intruded into politics more prominently. A series of resolutions was drawn up by Madison in 1798 (most young readers have heard the political orators refer to these resolutions), and adopted by the Virginia Legislature. A similar series, by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Legis-

lature of Kentucky in the same year. The Virginia resolutions declared that when the Federal government should exceed its authority the State could interfere and pronounce such action unconstitutional; and Virginia pronounced the alien and sedition laws unconstitutional. Those of Kentucky declared that the Federal Constitution was a compact, the several States being one party and the Federal government the other, and each party must decide for itself when the compact was infringed and upon the proper remedy. The Kentucky resolutions, when repeated in 1799, mentioned that to hold objectionable laws null was the proper remedy.

Thus disunion was again becoming a serious question, and South Carolina attempted nullification in 1832, which aroused President Jackson. It should be stated that Madison afterwards declared that the Virginia resolutions contained no basis for nullification or secession, which he termed "twin heresies."

It should be explained here also that no section of the country at this time regarded secession as being wrong in principle, and the North as well as the South threatened to withdraw whenever there was friction of interests. To be explicit, during the war of 1812 with England a number of reverses to our arms made it unpopular with the New England people, and it is al-

most certain they began taking steps to secede and to establish a Northern Confederacy. This was while Madison was President. While Aaron Burr was Vice President there were threats of secession by New England leaders.

Madison will be thought of in connection with the founders of the government, and he has taken his place in history with Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton.

The second war with Great Britain came up during Madison's administration as President, and the incidents of his life during the time are of absorbing interest.

## JOHN SEVIER.

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THERE is such a thing as a growing reputation. Owing to a condition of the public mind, it is sometimes the case that a man dies with but limited fame; his contemporaries are not able to give him his just deserts. This has been explained by a distinguished man in his re-

ference to the poet Burns. It is impossible, he says, for men to believe that the man, the mere man, toiling along by their side through the poor jostlings of existence, can be made of finer clay than themselves. At last his fame begins to broaden, until we wonder how it was that his worth was not recognized and appreciated to its fullest. The great poet Shakespeare was not accepted as a classic until some two centuries after he lived. Gen. Robert E. Lee was recognized as a great soldier; but his reputation has grown since his death, so that a Northern historian (Prof. Andrews) asserts that he was the greatest general of our civil war.

John Sevier, soldier, Indian fighter, and statesman—one of the builders of the State of Tennessee—is just beginning to be appreciated properly, more than seventy-five years after his death. Unlike the professional men of his time (he was born in Virginia on September 23, 1745), Sevier did not have the advantage of an education and access to such libraries as were extant; neither did he have the social station accorded members of wealthy families. But he proved the truth of the poet's averment that honor and fame from no condition rise.

It is recorded that he married when about eighteen years of age. This is probably true, as at the battle of King's Mountain, in 1780, when only thirty-five years of age, he had two sons to take part in that memorable fight. In the spring of 1772 he emigrated to the first settlement located on what is now Tennessee soil, Watauga. In his new home he soon became prominent as an Indian fighter—something of vastly more importance in that section and at that period than the eloquence of Henry or the legal learning of Jefferson. The Indians were naturally jealous of the encroachments of the whites, and after the war of the Revolution began they were incited by British agents to exterminate the settlers or drive them back among the older colonies. Through his vigilance and

skill in Indian warfare the women and children of the North Carolina border were saved from butchery, and the settlements permitted to grow and spread until the new territory should become a thriving State.

Sevier was one of the most chivalrous of men, but his mode of fighting the savages was terrible and thorough. They were not molested unless they invaded and massacred the whites; but when they did this, he pursued them into their own country and left their fields and homes a scene of desolation. The Indians were treacherous, cruel, and relentless in their hate, and he knew that less harsh measures would not serve as a protection to his people. His adventures are more thrilling than the most stirring romance. He introduced the Indian war whoop among his brave mountain followers, and though he was in thirty-five battles he never lost an engagement.

Although Sevier's attention was needed to repel Indian invasions, he saw some service in the closing scenes of the Revolution. His chief exploit was at King's Mountain. Ferguson, an English officer, threatened the borders. Sevier and another pioneer (Isaac Shelby) raised a body of five hundred troops for the purpose of overtaking and surprising the Englishman. They induced Col. William Campbell, of Virginia, to join them with four hundred men, and, to gain

his strong coöperation, elected him commander of the united forces. Other reënforcements were secured, making in all about fifteen hundred men. Ferguson had threatened to burn and destroy the settlements unless the mountaineers should return to their allegiance, and had advanced as far as Gilbert Town to execute his threat. There he heard of the approach of Campbell's men, and began a retreat, finally reaching King's Mountain, hoping to unite with Cornwallis. He selected a point which could not be approached from any direction without encountering the fire of those on top. But the patriots were determined. Campbell's plan was to surround Ferguson on all sides and prevent him from concentrating an army. The two regiments of Campbell and Col. Shelby were sent directly up the sides of the mountain, to divert the enemy, while Sevier and the others surrounded them. The attack was gallant and the defense was fierce, but after a sanguinary conflict the British surrendered. Ferguson was killed before the surrender. All the enemy, eight hundred, were captured, and fifteen hundred stands of arms taken. This battle has always figured as the turning point in the struggle for independence, and the part taken by Sevier and his compatriots was duly recognized by the

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General Assembly of North Carolina, by Gen. Greene, and by the patriots everywhere.

In 1784 the Assembly of North Carolina passed an act ceding to the United States all the territory which is now Tennessee, Congress to accept it within two years. The frontiersmen became alarmed. They considered themselves from under the protection of both North Carolina and the general government. They would be left, they reasoned, without any form of government for two years. During two years of lawlessness and disorder what would be the result to the settlements. In their wrath and alarm the pioneers turned to Sevier, determined to organize a separate State. He was idolized by the mountaineers. He had proven himself even then able in a civil as well as in a military way. He was chosen to lead, and the State of Franklin was formed of the East Tennessee counties. He was made the first and only Governor, the people of his section finally becoming reconciled to North Carolina. The new State collapsed after an existence of three or four years.

Success brings honor, and failure odium, generally; but somehow the collapse of his scheme to make a State did not make Sevier unpopular. None but certain political enemies desired to have him tried for treason, for his many services to the public in those trying times were not for-

gotten. Some months afterwards he was elected to the North Carolina Senate, and took his seat; and following this came his appointment as brigadier general and his election to Congress from the State which at one time was prosecuting him for treason.

When Tennessee was admitted to the Union, in 1796, he became the first Governor, and held the office six times in all. He was also elected a member of Congress twice.

In 1815 he was appointed by President Monroe to locate the boundary lines of the territory of the Creek Indians, and died in Alabama in the autumn of that year.

Sevier was a great organizer, and, as far as Tennessee was concerned, brought order out of chaos. This tribute, paid him by one of his latest biographers, is not too high: "Of all whose fame was attained within the limits of this State (Tennessee), the most illustrious, the most conspicuous, the one whose name was and deserves still to be the most resplendent, was John Sevier."

## ANDREW JACKSON.

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THE most popular man in Tennessee up to the battle of New Orleans, in 1815, was John Sevier. After Sevier's death, and until the civil war, Andrew Jackson was the most prominent man of all Tennesseans. He came into notoriety just in time to overshadow

the reputation of Sevier.

The first opportunity Jackson had of bringing himself prominently before the public was when the Creek Indians, becoming allies of Great Britain in the war of 1812, made a final struggle to arrest the progress of civilization in the Southwest. The quickness of Jackson's movements and the force with which he struck the savages marked him not only as a great fighter, but as one able to command. This reputation was enhanced by the New Orleans affair, in which he so successfully repelled the assault of Pakenham's veterans; and the result was that, as he

was now the popular hero of the nation, he was called to preside as its chief executive.

It is not always the case that wise statesmanship is combined with great generalship, but Jackson certainly dispelled any belief that such a combination was impossible. He had settled and original convictions on questions of political economy.

He began making certain innovations soon after being inaugurated President, in 1829. The advisers of the former Presidents had been selected from the best-known and ablest men of the country; he selected as his some intimate friends who held no important offices, and they became known as the "Kitchen Cabinet." His predecessors had proceeded on the theory that public office is a public trust, in treating the civil service; he thought that to the victors belong the spoils—a system, by the way, which had been previously perfected in the State politics of New York and Pennsylvania. Between April 30, 1789, and March 4, 1829, the total removals of governmental officers from positions was only seventy-four; between March 4, 1829, and March 22, 1830, Jackson made about two thousand changes in the civil service.

During Jackson's first administration there came about a division of political parties. That which opposed internal improvements, protect-

ive tariffs, etc., retained the name of Democratic, dropping the full designation of Republican-Democratic party; while that of the loose constructionists, under the leadership of Henry Clay, became the Whig party.

Unlike his celebrated political rival, Calhoun, Jackson took a stand against nullification, and, in addition to this, made war on the United States Bank. State banks afterwards sprung up, which finally brought about the great financial panic of 1837, that scattered thousands of private fortunes and prepared the way for the first Whig victory, in 1840.

In foreign affairs the administration of Jackson won deserved credit. France owed the United States a claim of \$5,000,000, which she seemed in no hurry to pay. The fighting instinct was always dominant in him, and in his message to Congress in 1834 he recommended that a law should be passed authorizing the capture of enough French vessels to pay the amount due. France promptly paid up, and the great commoner, the rough-and-ready fighter, thus forced foreign powers to understand that the United States must be recognized.

The incidents of Andrew Jackson's individual career are as interesting as those of his public life, almost, which tend to make him the popular hero that he is, as well as an attractive sub-

ject for the historian. While Parton has damaged him among the thoughtful, and Sumner sinks him as a general, he will always have a hold on the people. The fact that he was the first President from the middle class; that he was knightly in his devotion to his wife, who was mercilessly and malignantly slandered until her death; that he was the incarnation of courage; that he was a great general, as well as a statesman of considerable ability, this will forever surround his name with a romantic interest. If he was not in all things what we admire, he was a product of the times, and certainly possessed gifts that were of manifest need to his country.

While Jackson stormed his way through life, and while his administration was during a time of political excitement and threatened upheaval of established institutions, the period of his Presidency was an important one to this country, witnessing the introduction of railroads, agricultural machines, and the modern type of daily newspapers, the steady immigration from Europe, and the "blooming of American literature."

## PETER CARTWRIGHT.

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THE events in the lives of the pioneer preachers make interesting reading indeed, as suggested elsewhere. If they were given in full, with the adventures, hardships, and sacrifices of the clergy, no romance would be more fascinating. The present gen-

eration, too, would be astonished at the modes hit upon by some of the ministers to compel attention to their teaching. It is recorded that one young preacher, noticing that a lady was not as observant as she should have been, stopped in his discourse at a Methodist meeting and threw his hymn book across the room into her lap. Very naturally, even in those early days, this rudeness came near breaking up the services. In the *Home Circle* a number of years ago there was an extended sketch of Rev. James Axley, an eccentric but powerful preacher of the Methodist denomination.

"In the pulpit he stood erect and nearly still, gesticulated very little, and only occasionally turning slowly from side to side, that he might see all his auditors," says the writer of the sketch. "If the weather was warm, it was very common with him, after opening the services with song and prayer, to deliberately take off his coat, hang it in the pulpit, hold his Bible in one hand, and thrust the other deep down into his capacious vest pocket, and thus proceed with his sermon. He was a natural orator, after the best models—those which nature forms." Rev. Jacob Young, referring to a Conference in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1808, says among other things in his autobiography: "This was the first Conference ever held in Chillicothe, and, I believe, the first held in Ohio. Multitudes from the East, North, South, and West attended. Although our congregations were large, they were very peaceful. We had no disturbance till about the middle of the session, and that was brought on by a couple of preachers who had a great deal more zeal than knowledge. They raised a rumpus with a young man by the name of Rector, from Rectortown, in Maryland." Mr. Young gives an account of his journey from Nashville to Natchez, which shows the wildness of the territory in which the ministers then worked. On the road they met

"Col." George Colbert, a half-breed Indian. "He was a very shrewd, talented man, and withal very wicked," continues Young. "He had two wives. They were Cherokees, daughters of the famous chief, Double Head. Col. George was a Chickasaw. He and his brother had a large farm, and about forty negroes working. We bought some corn, pumpkins, and corn blades, for which he charged us a very high price. We sat down and had a social chat, and were considerably entertained with his shrewdness and witticism. He inquired where we were going. We told him to Natchez. He then inquired our business. We told him we were going to preach. He laughed. 'Ah,' said he, 'Natchez people great for preach, but they be poor, lazy, thieving, bad people.' We defended our cause as much as we thought necessary. He then asked where we were from. We told him from Kentucky. 'Kentuckian bad people, and white man worse than Indian everywhere, though they have much preach and learn much. Indians never know how to steal till white man learn them; never get drunk or swear till white man learn them. We don't want any preaching in this country. We are free, and intend to keep so.'"

An important figure in those primitive and adventurous days, though very erratic, Peter

Cartwright went about the service of his Lord and Master. He was born in Virginia in 1785, his father having been an American soldier in the revolutionary war. When five years of age the family removed to Kentucky. At that time there was not a newspaper printed south of Green River, no schools worthy the name, and no mills within forty miles. According to his own account, clothing was home-made from the cotton and flax, but imported tea, coffee, and sugar were entirely unknown. Until he reached the age of sixteen Peter was a very wild boy, fond of card-playing, dancing, and horse-racing. When the great camp meeting was held at Cane Ridge, the Cartwrights attended, with thousands of others. The boy was awakened to a sense of his sinfulness, but fought against his convictions for some time. Finally he fell under conviction, sold a favorite race horse, burned his cards, gave up gambling, and was converted. He immediately began to preach as a local, but at the age of seventeen was received into the regular ministry, and was ordained a Methodist elder by Bishop Asbury in 1806. He was after this prominent in religious work in the Southwest, and especially in the Middle Tennessee settlements. Referring to his work and that of others in 1806 or 1807, he says: "I think I received about forty dollars

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this year, but many of our preachers did not receive half that amount. These were hard times in those Western wilds. Many, very many, pious and useful preachers were literally starved into a location. I do not mean that they were starved for want of food; for, although it was rough, yet the preachers generally got enough to eat. But they did not generally receive, in a whole year, money enough to get them a suit of clothes; and if people, and preachers too, had not dressed in homespun clothing, and the good sisters had not made and presented their preachers with clothing, they generally must retire from itinerant life and go to work and clothe themselves."

In a sketch contributed to McFerrin's "Methodism in Tennessee" an acquaintance pays this tribute to Cartwright: "About the year 1818 Peter Cartwright traveled the Red River Circuit. His home was thirty miles from the nearest appointment, which was Gunn's Society. I have known him to leave home and be at our house at eleven o'clock, preach and hold class meeting, and then go five miles and preach at four o'clock; then ride five miles and preach at night, carrying his saddlebags of books for sale. I never knew him to get hoarse or appear tired. He was death upon whisky-drinking, tobacco-chewing, and coffee-drinking. Take him alto-

gether, he was one of the most powerful men I ever heard."

Numerous stories are told of his personal prowess in dealing with the rough characters of the frontier, who often sought to interrupt his meetings, and whom he almost invariably vanquished by moral suasion, if possible; if he failed in that, he did not hesitate to resort to physical force—"by the arm of flesh," as a biographer puts it.

In 1823 he removed to Illinois, the section to which he went being peopled by only a few pioneers. He was after awhile elected to the Legislature, and in this sphere his courage and wit made him the victor in many debates. He attended Annual Conference for many years, and found his greatest happiness in the camp meetings.

From an early period he was opposed to slavery, and when the rupture between the Northern and Southern parts of his Church took place, in 1844, he sided with the Northern wing.

He remained a Democrat all the time, however, and was the candidate of his party for Congress in 1846 against Abraham Lincoln, who defeated him by a majority of fifteen hundred votes.

For more than a half century he was a presiding elder. In Conference meetings he was

loved and dreaded, for he did not hesitate to arraign the bishops to their face. He would have been another Elijah, fearless to rebuke kings if he considered them out of their path of duty; a sturdy, rugged character, a product of the times, and, we might say, a necessity in the work to which he gave so many years. "His influence is powerful," it is now said of him, and his strong good sense often shaped the policy of the whole denomination. His pamphlet, "Controversy with the Devil," was once famous. His autobiography is a fair picture of the period in which he lived.

## JOHN PENDLETON KENNEDY.

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It is only during comparatively recent years that Southerners have devoted themselves seriously to literature. From the earliest days they have paid attention to law and statecraft, and even then the law was studied mainly for the advantages it would give in statesmanship and commonwealth-building.



Very little prose of any permanent value as literature has come down to us from the beginning of civilization in Virginia to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The writings of Jefferson and Madison are appreciated for their political wisdom. Wirt's "Life of Patrick Henry" has some literary merit, and this much can perhaps be said of John Marshall's "Life of Washington." The biographies of Washington and Marion, by Mason Locke Weems, are among the most successful of the earlier literary attempts, speaking from a financial standpoint. Weems's "Life of Washington" deserves more

than a passing reference, since to that book is due one type we have of Washington. It went through forty editions, and, according to a sketch in Appleton's "Cyclopedia of American Biography," written as late as 1889, it is still sold in the rural districts of many parts of the country, and is the most popular life of the first President in existence. It was first published in 1800, and so has abided a century, and bids fair to survive years yet. How few books published since and heralded by the critics as of great worth have survived the changes of even fifty years! Weems's name is very familiar to have been carved on the tomb in 1825. How is his fame accounted for? Why does his book live if possessing so little merit? A distinguished French critic has said that if a book pleases, seek to judge it by no higher standard; it is a good work and builded by a good workman. The "Life of Washington" was greatly enjoyed around the firesides of our forefathers, and may yet be found, dingy and leather-bound, among the few books resting on a table in the best room of many a farmer and villager. If it has not appealed to the critics, it has assisted materially in awakening the patriotism and emulation of thousands of Americans besides Abraham Lincoln.

In John P. Kennedy, however, we have an author who has impressed not only the masses, but

to some extent the critics—those judges who make it a point to decide for us what is good, bad, or indifferent in letters. “Swallow Barn” was his first book. It met with a flattering reception locally, and was followed in 1835 by “Horseshoe Robinson,” a tale of the Tory ascendancy. It was the most successful of his works. In addition to another story, “Rob of the Bowl,” describing the province of Maryland in the days of the second Lord Baltimore, he wrote a life of William Wirt and published a number of discourses on various subjects.

He was always kind to struggling merit. Indeed, he sought it out, and, where possible, advanced it. He was an early and steadfast friend of Edgar A. Poe, the great but ill-starred poet. Poe declared that Kennedy was his first friend, and that if it had not been for his good offices he would have died of starvation in Baltimore.

Kennedy was elected to Congress several times, and was once Secretary of the Navy. After the close of the civil war he went to Europe, and while there became the friend of William M. Thackeray, the well-known English novelist. Thackeray, like other writers of serials in those days, did not finish a work before publication in the papers was commenced, but wrote the installments as they were to appear. Once, while they were in Paris, he re-

marked to the American that his book, "The Virginians," was being published monthly in London, and jestingly suggested to Kennedy to write the copy for the next chapter that was to appear. The latter agreed. This chapter was the fourth of the second volume. The circumstance may account for the accuracy of Virginia scenery therein described, though the story has been vigorously denied by some of Thackeray's admirers.

Kennedy's best work is pleasing, his style being clear and concise. That it is so may be concluded from the fact that the reader of Thackeray's novel referred to does not notice any crudeness in the chapter written by the Southerner, no falling off in any respect from the style of the great Englishman.

As Bryant was the pioneer poet of America, Kennedy is the pioneer Southern novelist. This fact, as well as his works, will help to keep his memory green.

## EDGAR ALLAN POE.

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IN his "Introduction to American Literature" Prof. Brander Matthews avers that "The Raven" is perhaps the most widely known poem written by any American to this day. Its author, Edgar A. Poe, was a Southerner.



After arriving at manhood, and having spent several years in alternate dissipation and hard literary work, he took up his abode in Baltimore. Here he met with but little success. The fact of his poverty at that time is made plain by the following entry in the diary of the novelist, John P. Kennedy: "It is many years ago, perhaps as early as 1833 or 1834, that I found him (Poe) in Baltimore in a state of starvation. I gave him clothing, free access to my table, and the use of a horse for exercise whenever he chose—in fact, brought him up from the very verge of despair."

While in Baltimore he was awarded a hundred-dollar prize for a story, and later Kennedy

secured for him the position of editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, at Richmond, Va. In that position he made considerable reputation and a number of enemies, on account of his fearless and caustic criticisms. He soon placed the *Messenger* beside the *Knickerbocker* and the *New Englander*.

He married at the age of twenty-seven, and was making a modest living in Richmond, when his love for intoxicants lost him his position. He drifted to Philadelphia, and became associate editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. During his residence there he issued a collection of his prose stories, his best work, receiving nothing from his publisher but twenty copies of the work for distribution among his friends.

It is said that Lockhart, the English writer, never kept a friend. Poe was almost as unfortunate. He quarreled with the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and became editor of *Graham's*; but in 1844 he went to New York, and became connected with the *Mirror*. In this paper, in 1845, first appeared "The Raven." Its popularity was immediate and widespread, and has not diminished to the present. Not liking the grind of daily newspaper work, he connected himself with the *Broadway Journal*. His harsh criticism of Longfellow was a feature of his work on the *Journal*. Authors are often

jealous, and they also see the advantage of continuous advertising. Poe always republished references commendatory of himself, and had his friends see to their republication. He even corrected the proof of Lowell's article regarding his work. It is probable that literary rivalry caused him to attack Longfellow. The latter had edited the *Waif*, a volume containing fugitive pieces by minor authors. Reviewing it, Poe said: "But there *does* appear in this little volume a very careful avoidance of all American poets who may be supposed especially to interfere with the claims of Mr. Longfellow. These men Mr. Longfellow can continuously imitate (*is* that the word?), and yet never incidentally commend."

The attack, it may well be supposed, lost him friends. Poe's intimates said that he was a monomaniac on the subject of plagiarism.

Early in 1846 he removed to Fordham, a suburb of New York, where he and his wife and her mother lived in poverty. The domestic relations of the three seemed to be pleasant, despite poverty, as this extract from a letter written to his mother-in-law after his removal to Philadelphia indicates: "We have now got \$4.50 left. To-morrow I am going to try to borrow \$3, so that I may have a fortnight to go upon. I feel in excellent spirits, and haven't drunk a drop,

so that I hope soon to get out of trouble. The very instant I scrape together enough money I shall send it on. You can't imagine how much we both miss you. It looks as if it were going to clear up now. As soon as I write Lowell's article I shall send it to you and get you to get the money from Graham."

While at Fordham his wife died; but, although this was a severe blow, he recovered in the summer and lectured. He prepared for and took a Southern trip. Going to Richmond, he became engaged to a widow whom he had loved in youth. He then went to Baltimore, on his return North, to make arrangements for his wedding; but, falling in with old friends and imbibing freely, was one day found unconscious from the use of stimulants. He was carried to a hospital, and died there on Sunday, October 9, 1849.

Poe's place in literature is established. He is one of the immortals. His fame continues to broaden year by year. While his poems point no moral and possess few quotable lines, there is a haunting melancholy, a something in them that makes them admired. He was the first to write a detective story, as Irving has written the first American short stories. In the "Murders of the Rue Morgue" and the "Gold Bug" he has had imitators, but no rivals. "In the eyes

of foreigners," avers an American critic, "he is the most gifted of all the authors of America. He is the one to whom the critics of Europe would most readily accord the full title of genius. At the end of this nineteenth century Poe is the sole man of letters born in the United States whose writings are read eagerly in Great Britain and in France, in Germany, in Italy, and in Spain, where Franklin is now but a name and where the fame of James Fenimore Cooper, once as widely spread is now slowly fading away."

## HENRY CLAY.

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It is a fact that no man who has been an unusually powerful orator has ever been elevated to the Presidency. Clay, Webster, and Calhoun could sway multitudes, but never, for some reason, became popular enough to reach the position of President of the United States.

It may be that Henry Clay's very ardency for the Union prevented his elevation beyond the United States Senate. His anxiety to keep it intact inspired his disposition to compromise contested questions to a much greater extent than any man who had gone before him, and the public might have construed this into indecision and lack of principle.

Clay's first public actions were in favor of the emancipation of slavery, soon after his removal from Virginia to Kentucky, but he advocated a constitutional provision for the *gradual* freeing of the slaves of his adopted State. This measure was cherished until the end of his life; and,

though it **was** not popular in the South, it might have been well if that section had listened to his arguments on the subject with more patience.

While of the South, it is thus seen that he **was** not in sympathy with one of the institutions more particularly upheld by Southerners; but in his opposition to it he **was** careful not to allow his dislike of it to contribute in any manner to the estrangement of the sections. His course in the great controversy substantiates this idea.

When the question of the admission of Missouri as a slave State came up it created the first intense political slavery excitement. A biographer says that Clay "opposed the 'restriction' clause making the admission of Missouri dependent on the exclusion of slavery from the State, but supported the compromise by Senator Thomas, of Illinois, admitting Missouri with slavery, but excluding slavery from all the territory north of 36° 30' acquired by the Louisiana purchase. This was the first part of the Missouri Compromise, which is often erroneously attributed to Clay. When Missouri then presented herself with a State constitution not only recognizing slavery, but also making it the duty of the Legislature to pass such laws as would prevent free negroes or mulattoes from coming into the State, the excitement broke out anew, and a majority in the House of Representatives refused to admit

Missouri as a State with such a constitution. On Clay's motion, the subject was referred to a special committee, of which he was chairman. This committee of the House joined with a Senate committee, and the two unitedly reported in both houses a resolution that Missouri be admitted upon the fundamental condition that the State should never make any law to prevent from settling within its boundaries any description of persons who then or thereafter might become citizens of any State of the Union. This resolution was adopted, and the fundamental condition assented to by Missouri." This was Clay's part in the Missouri Compromise. It caused him to be heralded as the "great pacificator," and he proved himself on other occasions entitled to the distinction. For instance, when South Carolina passed an ordinance nullifying the tariff laws, and when in 1832 President Jackson issued a proclamation against the nullifiers, he introduced in behalf of peace and union a compromise bill in Congress providing for a gradual reduction of the tariff until 1842, when it should be reduced to a "horizontal rate" of twenty per cent. The bill became a law, was accepted by the nullifiers, and South Carolina rescinded the objectionable ordinance.

When defeated first for the Presidency, and the election was left to the House of Representa-

tives, he supported John Quincy Adams in preference to his other competitors, Jackson and Crawford, and was charged with selling out to Adams. The charge was thrown at Clay ever after. It had no foundation in fact, but Jackson believed it, and, with such a one to circulate the charge, it must have been something of a millstone about Clay's neck. He was made Secretary of State under Adams. John Randolph, referring to Adams and Clay, once said that they were a "combination of Puritan and blackleg," which indicates the fierceness of party feeling at that time. It caused Clay to challenge Randolph to a duel, but neither was wounded.

By 1848 Clay was convinced that his chance to realize the ambition of his life, that of being President of the United States, had passed; but he was not yet allowed to retire to private walks. When new territory was acquired from Mexico he was once more successful in compromising differences between the sections on the slavery question. Abolitionism, which began to take shape during Jackson's administration, kept alive in Clay's bosom the dread of secession, which he had foreseen, and its followers disgusted him. Leading people of the North, who had hated with such intensity the nullification doctrine of John C. Calhoun and South Carolina, were themselves nullifying a law of the land relative to

fugitive slaves. When captured in Northern States these escaped slaves, the property of the Southern people, were liberated. Northern people, many of them, were so hostile to a part of the Union that they afterwards expressed themselves in sympathy with John Brown, the would-be butcher of Virginia slaveholders. So common had nullification outrages become in the North that Clay, in 1851, pronounced himself in favor of conferring upon the President extraordinary powers for the enforcement of the fugitive slave law.

In a biography of the Kentucky orator Carl Schurz says: "Clay was unquestionably one of the greatest orators that America ever produced—a man of incorruptible personal integrity; of very great natural ability, but little study; of free and convivial habits; of singularly winning address and manners; not a cautious and safe political leader, but a splendid party chief, idolized by his followers. He was actuated by a lofty national spirit, proud of his country, and ardently devoted to the Union."

## JOHN C. CALHOUN.

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WHEN John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, died in 1850, Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts, said among other things: "He had the basis, the indispensable basis, of all high character, and that was unspotted integrity and unimpaired honor. If he had aspirations, they were high and honorable and noble. Firm in his purpose, perfectly patriotic and honest, aside from that large regard for that species of distinction that conducted him to eminent stations for the benefit of the republic, I do not believe he had a selfish motive or a selfish feeling."



In strange contrast with this praise from a political adversary is the assault on the public acts of Calhoun by Dr. H. Von Holst, in one of the latest biographies of the Southerner. We know who Webster was, and what his esteem meant; but what of Von Holst? In a sketch of him, in Warner's "Library of the World's Best Literature," it is shown that he is an alien, while this

statement is made as to his judgment: "Unfortunately for his repute as a historian, he saw these causes (leading to the civil war) with the eye of a partisan of the North, and he traversed the past like a belated Nemesis dealing out to our departed statesmen the retribution which he thought their sins deserved." Happily, our opinions are not often formed from those of mere literary tinkers.

John C. Calhoun is known to fame because of his power as an orator; because of his analytical mind, his acquaintance with constitutional law, his high statesmanship; and because of his unequivocal indorsement of "nullification" and the disturbances that doctrine caused in the affairs of this country in the earlier part of the nineteenth century.

Of this doctrine of nullification, or the principle of State interposition with laws of the general government that are unconstitutional and tending to injure the State, he is supposed to have been the originator. He was not, however; he was only its ablest champion. The war between the States settled the question, but the idea was not new either North or South before he gave it his tremendous influence.

While serving his first term as Vice President of the United States Calhoun's life as a constitutional statesman began in his opposition to the

"American policy" of Henry Clay. He founded a new school of political philosophy, the tenets being free trade, low duties, separation from banks, nullification, and a strict adherence to the Constitution. While the Democratic party, led by Andrew Jackson, and the Whig party, under the leadership of Clay, were organized for a battle for supremacy, the South Carolinian represented the position of his State against the tariff. In the Senate his temerity in advocating nullification when all others opposed it caused him to be regarded not only with interest but hostility. In this attitude he certainly demonstrated the truth of an assertion he once made: "Throughout the whole of my service I have never followed events, but have taken my stand in advance." He was not a mere politician who watched the straws to learn the course of the wind, and there are not many instances of such great moral courage as that of Calhoun standing there in the Senate demanding what he thought was right, undaunted and eloquent, and giving up the hope of the highest office in the land in the sincerity of his convictions.

The President's proclamation of November, 1832, relative to the ordinance of South Carolina to nullify the tariff law, was followed by the force bill and Jackson's threat against South Carolina. Calhoun made a forceful speech

against this bill; Webster replied. Calhoun then called up his resolutions and made, on February 26, 1833, a speech of extraordinary power; Webster did not reply. The heated discussion resulted in good, giving Clay an opportunity to introduce his famous compromise tariff.

Like Patrick Henry, he made some startling predictions relative to abolitionism and on the subject of the slaves. In 1849 he said: "If it [emancipation] should ever be effected, it will be through the agency of the Federal government, controlled by the dominant power of the Northern States of the confederacy against the resistance and struggle of the Southern." Again: "Another step would be taken, to raise them to a political and social equality with their [the slaves'] former owners by giving them the right of voting and holding public offices under the Federal government." And again: "The blacks and the profligate whites who might unite with them would become the principal recipients of Federal offices and patronage, and would in consequence be raised above the whites in the South in her political and social scale."

Even Von Holst admits that Calhoun's reputation is growing, while Webster and Clay are gradually receding.

## JOHN RANDOLPH.

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IN honor and distinction the name of Randolph vies with that of Lee in Virginia. Members of the family have been Governors, soldiers, jurists, and Congressmen. John Randolph, of Roanoke, is perhaps the most famous, and by his career—illustrious in some respects and bizarre in many—has added a certain prestige to the name that it would probably not have had. Historians have been divided in their estimate. Henry Adams, in the "American Statesmen Series," writes of him much as he would of a personal enemy; Hugh Garland, in his "Life," says he was the wisest, truest patriot and most devoted son Virginia has ever had. Both are extreme in their views.

Randolph was born June 2, 1773, and was the seventh in descent from the Indian woman Pocahontas by her marriage with John Rolfe. It was held that toward the close of his life he showed symptoms of insanity, and from child-



hood he was eccentric. He did not mingle easily with other boys, but attached himself vehemently, it is said, to one or two. His escapades at college recall the vices of the poet Poe. He drank and gambled, and was mixed up in a sensational affair with the famous beauty of that time, Maria Ward.

He was elected to Congress, and his first speech in that body, in 1800, made him a number of enemies among certain officers; for it was upon a resolution to diminish the army, and he used the phrase "standing or mercenary armies," contending that those who made war a special calling were mercenary. They insulted him at the theater afterwards.

It is mentioned as a fact that Jefferson considered "Mr." a sufficiently honorable title as could be given a person. Randolph, in writing to President Adams regarding the officers' insults at the theater, addressed him only as "President of the United States," and signed himself: "With respect, your fellow-citizen, John Randolph." This was a mere instance of his eccentricity, it may be, and it greatly incensed the President. But he had little respect for the prominent men of his day. He generally spoke of Bonaparte as "that coward Napoleon." While he hated slavery, he referred to those who favored the Missouri compromise as "doughfaces,"

a term he originated. He had no esteem for Calhoun, the nullification champion, though he gave up the mission to Russia to oppose Jackson's war on nullification; and he referred to Clay as a "blackleg." For his epithet-throwing at Clay he was challenged and shot at by the Kentuckian, but refused to kill Clay when it was manifestly in his power to do so.

Awhile after entering the halls of Congress he became the leader of the Republicans in the House and the pride of his State. "He commanded the heart of the nation by his poetic eloquence, his absolute honesty, and the scathing wit with which he exposed every corrupt scheme," says M. D. Conway. These speeches were never forgotten by those who heard them, for, besides his bursts of eloquence, he had a striking personal appearance, being six feet in height and very slender, with long, skinny fingers, which he pointed and shook at those against whom he spoke.

There was no great measure of national importance, like Thomas H. Benton's homestead scheme, conceived and pushed by him, but he gave his best energies to the advocacy of State rights and to obstruct certain unwise, if not corrupt, legislation.

Through his high temper, his love of invective, of which he was a master, and his intol-

erance, he made as many enemies as any other public man of his day, not excepting Andrew Jackson; and each quarrel, because generally unreasonable in its inception and intensity, tended to lose him influence. When he at last quarreled with Monroe while that gentleman was on a rising wave and lost his seat in Congress, the *Richmond Enquirer* denounced him as "a nuisance and a curse." This was in 1813; and a Senator from Massachusetts, writing in 1825, declared: "In his likings and dislikings, as in everything else, he is the most eccentric being on the face of the earth, and is as likely to abuse friend as foe. Hence, among all those with whom he has been associated during the last thirty years, there is scarcely an individual whom he can call his friend. Indeed, I think he is partially deranged, and seldom in the full possession of his reason."

Randolph would stoop even to make war on his neighbors if they dared to vote against him. As an instance of how he would seek revenge in such matters the following is related: A plain farmer, in 1813, had carried his district almost solidly against Randolph in the Congressional election. He was sought out one court day by Randolph in the most public place he could find. Addressing him with great courtesy, he put to him presently an abstruse question of politics.

Passing from one puzzling and confusing inquiry to another, raising his voice, attracting a crowd by every artifice in his power, he drew the unfortunate man farther into the most awkward embarrassment, continually repeating his expressions of astonishment at the ignorance to which his victim confessed. The scene exposed the man to ridicule and contempt and destroyed his influence.

But although Randolph was what we for convenience term "unbalanced," he was yet so great as an orator, so formidable an opponent of what he considered a wrong principle, that we wonder what he might have been had he possessed the self-control of such a man as Patrick Henry. In the House of Representatives and in the Senate he was a power, and if he really introduced no great measure he did the country considerable service more than once in balking corruption.

In combativeness he was like Andrew Jackson; in moroseness, caused by disease and temper, and in the vigor of his style, he recalls Carlyle; and Swift is thought of when we advert to his giant and crumbling intellect in his declining years.

Randolph appeared to abhor slavery, and it is said that if it would not have done an injustice to his creditors he would have freed his slaves

before his death. As it was, by an early will they were freed and then colonized in the West. His last will was set aside as having been written while of unsound mind. He died of consumption at the age of sixty years. In closing his biography Clark avers that the reason why funeral bells were not tolled, and eulogies pronounced, and a monument was not erected to his memory in the capital of his native State, was because her people had not yet learned to understand and appreciate him.

It may be that Randolph was the victim of ungoverned passions only, and in that case his career emphasizes the fact that he who practices self-control possesses a wisdom not found in books.

## ROBERT Y. HAYNE.

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THE Hayne family of South Carolina is a very distinguished one, dating back long before the Revolution. It came prominently into national notice on account of the execution of Isaac Hayne by the British in 1781, an execution that brought shame on English justice, but placed the unfortunate victim among the immortals of American annals as similar executions rendered famous Nathan Hale of the same period, and Sam Davis of the Confederate army.



This victim of British hate was a wealthy planter and owner of iron works in South Carolina. At the outbreak of the war between the colonies and England he took the field for independence as a captain. At the same time he was a State Senator. In 1780, on the invasion of the State by the English, he was included in the capitulation of Charleston, and paroled on condition that he would not serve against the

enemy so long as they held possession. When a few months later the fortunes of the British declined, he, with others who were paroled on the same terms, was warned that he would be compelled to join the British army or be closely confined. He would have accepted confinement, but his wife and several children lay at the point of death of smallpox. He went to Charleston, and, being assured by the deputy British commandant that he would not be compelled to fight against his countrymen, he took the oath of allegiance. After Gen. Greene had left the enemy nothing but Charleston Hayne was summoned to join the royal army immediately. This being in violation of the agreement that had been made, it released him from all obligations to the British. He rejoined the American army. In course of time he was captured, put in prison, and after examination before a board of officers, *without trial or examination of witnesses*, was sentenced to be hanged by the joint orders of Col. Balfour and Lord Rawdon. He protested against this summary proceeding, which was illegal whether he was regarded as a British subject or a prisoner who had broken his parole. Citizens of Charleston petitioned for his pardon in vain. A respite of forty-eight hours was allowed him in which to take leave of his children (his wife had died),

and at the end of that time he was hanged. Gen. Greene issued a proclamation that he would make reprisals. The matter was discussed in the British Parliament, and, while both Balfour and Rawdon justified it, each tried to attribute it to the agency of the other.

His great nephew, Robert Y. Hayne, is the subject of this sketch. This statesman and orator was born in South Carolina in 1791. He was educated for the bar at Charleston, and proved successful from the start. After the war of 1812, in which he took part, he resumed the practice of his profession in Charleston. He became attorney-general of the State, and in 1823 was elected to the United States Senate, where he took rank with Benton, Calhoun, Webster, and Clay. Few men have made such a profound impression on that body in so short a time at so early an age, and his ability was recognized from the fact that he was placed on some of the most important committees.

He took an important part in the discussion of the questions coming before the Senate, such as the tariff, etc. When the tariff bill of 1829 was before that body he made an elaborate and powerful speech, asserting that Congress did not have the constitutional power to impose duties on imports for the purpose of protecting domestic manufacturers. He was perhaps the

first to announce on the floor the doctrine of nullification—the right of a State to annul a law of the general government if that law was against the State's interest, the State to decide on that point in convention.

In 1830 the celebrated Foote resolutions on the sale of public lands were introduced, and this brought out the great debate between Hayne and Webster. The public at the time was familiar with the arguments made by them, but the speech of Hayne is not so familiar to the present generation as Webster's. The latter's life has been written time and again by partial historians, while Hayne has been neglected. Our histories, especially the school histories, are from a Northern source, and their authors have praised and paraded the effort which had their sympathies. In this way Hayne's speech has been hidden. None can discount its merits as a great speech, and will not attempt to refute any of the arguments except those referring to nullification. If the unbiased student desires to read Hayne's effort, he must repair to a library and seek it in some old volume published half a century ago. Why has it been so persistently covered up? Is it not because it is unanswerable, because it is so damaging in its presentation of facts? The latest biographer of Webster says his reply to

Hayne was the greatest speech of his life; he never afterwards equaled it. If this is so, if Webster perceived that all his power was necessary to reply properly to Hayne, must we not concede that Hayne's speech was a strong one? Thoughtful people will agree to this, though they have no old volume of "American Eloquence" to refer to and read it. In his defense of John Smith of the world and Virginia, John Fiske says logically: "To this day John Smith is one of the personages about whom writers of history are apt to lose their tempers. In recent days there have been many attempts to belittle him, but the turmoil that has been made is itself a tribute to the potency and incisiveness of his character. Weak men do not call forth such belligerency." An insignificant speech does not call forth the greatest effort of the greatest orator of one of the two sections of the Union; a speech that is not strong in argument, that is lacking in damaging facts, and that is not impressive and persuasive by reason of its eloquence, should not be so studiously kept from sight.

There is no discounting the ability of Webster. He is the pride of every American. But Hayne was an American statesman also, and the same generous veneration should be accorded his powers. After looking into the face of

Webster once, Carlyle said (Carlyle was imaginative, and liked to say impressive things): "I have not traced so much silent Berserker rage that I remember in any man." But contemporaries said as fine things of Hayne—this, for instance: "His voice is full and melodious, and his manner earnest and impressive. Full of ingenious sensibility, his eyes are as expressive as his tongue, and as he pours out his thoughts or feeling, either in a strain of captivating sweetness or of impetuous and overbearing passion, every emotion of his soul is distinctly depicted in the lineaments of his countenance. When he does not convince he delights, and even prejudice itself hangs charmed upon his lips."

When these men debated, in 1830, Hayne was only thirty-nine and Webster forty-eight. Both speeches were masterful, each satisfying those for whom it was made. Hayne's friends had as much to be proud over as Webster's.

"To do good by fair means," says the great Thomas H. Benton, referring to Robert Y. Hayne, "was the labor of his senatorial life; and I can truly say that, in ten years of close association with him, I never saw him actuated by a sinister motive, a selfish calculation, or an unbecoming aspiration."

It is here conceded that the literary part of the North has of recent years been generally ap-

preciative of Southern genius. If it had been otherwise, many a Southern author now enjoying an international reputation would have remained unknown. The South appreciates this. But secession is no more an issue; nullification is a dead-and-gone doctrine. It can do no harm to render justice to Hayne's speech and career.

## THOMAS H. BENTON.

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As civil strife is generally the most bitter of all wars, so when intimate friends become estranged they seldom become as readily reconciled as those who have no memories of favors done or thoughts of ingratitude. Thomas H. Benton and Andrew

Jackson were both adopted sons of Tennessee, and the former was the aid-de-camp of the latter in the war of 1812. They became estranged, however, and were bitter enemies for years; but after a time they made friends, and Benton proved his friendship sincere in various ways—a fact worthy of record, since it is an exception, and because Jackson seldom made friends with those he had once learned to hate.

In 1815 Benton left Tennessee and took up his residence in St. Louis, Mo., and resumed the practice of law. He also published a newspaper there, which involved him in several duels. He was one of the earliest Senators from Missouri

after its admission into the Union. He soon placed himself among the leaders, and was in his day considered one of the greatest orators.

Being a pioneer, he began early to secure a reform in the disposition of government lands to settlers. He demanded a preëemptive right to all actual settlers and the donation of homesteads to impoverished but industrious persons who would cultivate the land for a specified number of years. This was something new, and the public was slow to appreciate its merits, but he renewed the demand every year until it took hold on the public, and President Jackson embodied it in one of his messages, which secured its passage as a law. This was the origin of our great homestead preëmption law. Every settler in the West regarded him as a personal friend for the measure. He and Jackson had before this renewed their friendship.

Benton was one of the earliest advocates for a railroad to the Pacific. He favored the opening up and protection of the trade with New Mexico, and urged the cultivation of amicable relations with the Indian tribes.

President Jackson, as has been shown, took strong grounds against the United States Bank. He was supported by Benton, who took up the whole question of finance and urged a gold and silver currency as the true remedy for existing

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financial embarrassments. The most elaborate speeches of his life were made on the subject, and not only attracted profound attention in his own country but also throughout Europe, and he won the title of "Old Bullion." His style of oratory then was unimpassioned, but very deliberate, overflowing with facts and figures; but later in life he displayed exuberance of wit and raciness that added a charm to what he said.

During Benton's career there occurred an event which is not generally known in history. Owing to circumstances, David R. Atchison was elevated to Congress from Missouri. The Governor, who appointed him to fill out the unexpired term of Senator Lewis F. Linn, afterwards committed suicide because of the criticisms heaped upon him for the appointment of the unpopular Atchison. The latter felt himself overshadowed by Benton's reputation and chafed over it, although his position brought him the distinction of being President of the United States for one day. Under this shadow and that attending the Governor's death he continued to the end of his public life, although he was reëlected at the expiration of his first term. He antagonized Benton in the latter's "appeal" from the Jackson resolutions in 1848, and this inaugurated a warfare which finally resulted in the retirement from the Senate of both Benton and Atchison.

It was during his service in the Senate that occurred the incident in Atchison's career which made him a unique figure in American history. He was at one time elected President *pro tem.* of that body, and frequently presided over its deliberations. It so happened that March 4, 1849, fell on Sunday. The term of President Polk expired, according to law and custom, at noon on that day. Gen. Zachary Taylor, hero of the Mexican war, just then ended, out of deference to prevailing religious scruples decided to defer his inauguration until Monday. As will be seen, this left a gap of twenty-four hours between the terms of Polk and Taylor. As the Vice President's term ended at the same time as the President's, the mantle of authority fell, according to constitutional provision, upon the President *pro tem.* of the Senate. This happened to be at that particular time David Rice Atchison, of Missouri; but Senator Atchison seems to have little appreciated the honor conferred upon him by chance. On Saturday, the last day of the expiring Congress, he presided over the stormy and prolonged sitting of the Senate. Again and again was the clock "set back," in deference to that ancient and amusing fiction of law, and it was nearly daylight Sunday morning before the gavel finally fell. Exhausted by his unusual and worrisome labors, Atchi-

## SAM HOUSTON.

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IN spite of the idea beginning to prevail that sentiment no longer has much to do in this age of business and push, sentiment is still the gulf stream that warms humanity. A story of the heart in connection with a distinguished person's life adds much to its interest. When we think of Petrarch, it is not so much because of his literary achievements as it is for the romance connecting him with Laura, "the Provence rose." However we may esteem James Buchanan as a statesman, we are inclined to draw nearer to him on account of the love affair that caused him to go through life unwedded. And the unhappy marriage of Sam Houston when Governor of the State of Tennessee will always be the center of interest in his career, notwithstanding the fact that he was one of the most prominent Americans in the public eye for some years.

He, like so many of the distinguished men of

the South before the great civil war, was a native of Virginia, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. On the death of his father the family removed to a place in Tennessee near the territory of the Cherokee Indians, by one of whom he was finally adopted. He seemed to take a fancy to their mode of life. Later on, however, he left his Indian friends, and, with David Crockett, was an officer under Jackson in the war of 1812.

Going to Nashville, he began the study of law, and entered upon the practice at Lebanon. Genial and gifted, he rapidly grew in popularity. When thirty-seven years of age he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and then came the event which changed the course of his life: his marriage to a lady of the name of Allen, who lived in Sumner County. While his friends were yet congratulating him over his marriage, he separated from her without a word of explanation, resigned his office, and left the State amid a storm of abuse. The cause of the separation will perhaps always remain a mystery, as neither party ever made known the reason, though Houston protested that it in no wise affected his wife's honor.

Houston made his way up the Arkansas River to where his Cherokee friends had migrated, and rejoined them. Here he remained three years, living and dressing like the savages. In 1832 he

made a journey to Washington in behalf of the Indians, and was warmly received by President Jackson; and he created no little interest among the populace when it became known that an ex-Governor, who had discarded civilization under such peculiar circumstances, was visiting the city in the picturesque Indian garb.

It is natural to suppose that his domestic troubles had rendered Houston discontented in a degree. They may have been stepping stones. He went to Texas and took part in its struggle for independence from Mexican control. As in Tennessee, he at once became popular. In 1836, when Texas adopted a resolution of absolute independence, he was made commander in chief of the army.

In the meantime the Mexicans under Santa Anna began the invasion of Texas with a force of five thousand soldiers, in three columns. The Alamo fell, and the gallant Texan defenders were butchered. A few days later Goliad was taken by the Mexicans. But Houston turned the tide. He met the main division of the Mexicans under Santa Anna, and almost destroyed it, capturing Santa Anna himself. Texas became a republic, and Houston was its first President.

After a while the Texas Congress passed a bill making him Dictator. As President, he vetoed it. As early as 1838 he had taken the first steps

toward the annexation of Texas to the United States. Van Buren was President, and hesitated to entertain the measure. Houston "coquetted" with Spain, France, and England, knowing that the United States opposed the intrusion of a European power upon American soil. Texas was finally admitted into the Union, and Houston became a member of the United States Senate. He was spoken of more than once as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

In 1840, having long been divorced from his first wife, he married Margaret Moffette. He died in Huntsville, Tex., in 1863.

## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

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THE two generals who won the greatest reputations during the war of 1812 were both Southerners, were Indian fighters, and both reached the highest offices within the gift of the American people. They were Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison.

Unlike Jackson, Harrison came of a family of some prominence. His father was said to have descended from Harrison the regicide, though doubtless this is erroneous. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was twice Governor of Virginia, and was long prominent in the State politically.

The son was born in Berkeley, Va., in 1773. After beginning the study of medicine, he gave it up and entered the army in defense of the Western frontiers, which were being annoyed by the Indians. Washington, who had been a friend of his father, approved of his course, and he was commissioned ensign in the First

Infantry in 1791. For his services soon after entering the army he was especially complimented by Gen. Wayne, and promotion followed.

When Indiana was formed into a territory he was made its Governor, and was reappointed to that office successively by Jefferson and Madison. In 1805 he organized the first Indiana Legislature.

He was often brought in contact with the celebrated Indian chief Tecumseh in peace and war. Camping at Tippecanoe—near the Indian town where that chief and his brother, the Prophet, resided—and having been sent against the tribes on the Wabash, he was attacked at four o'clock on the morning of November 7, 1811. The camp was vigorously assaulted; the issue was doubtful for some time. Finally the Indians were repulsed. To this victory the words of the campaign song of 1840, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," had reference. Harrison's loss was sixty-two killed and one hundred and twenty-six wounded. He destroyed the prophet's town and returned to Vincennes. Under the war spirit excited, Congress voted an increase to the regular army of thirty-five thousand men and authorized the President to accept the services of fifty thousand volunteers.

On June 18, 1812, war was declared between Great Britain and this country; and in August

Harrison, though the Governor of Indiana, was commissioned major general of the militia of Kentucky. Some weeks subsequently an express from the Secretary of War, appointing him to the chief command in the West, was received. The letter contained the words: "You will exercise your own discretion and in all cases act according to your own judgment," no such latitude having been given to any general since Washington.

He proceeded to erect forts, and passed the year preparing for the coming campaign. After establishing a fortified camp, which he named Fort Meigs, he visited Cincinnati, and while there urged the construction of a fleet on Lake Erie. Early in 1813 Fort Meigs was besieged by the British under Proctor. The enemy was forced to retire, but in July renewed the attack. After a few days the British were again forced to withdraw.

When, in September, Commodore Perry gained his great victory on Lake Erie, Harrison embarked his artillery for a descent on Canada, and the troops followed and landed on Canada's soil. Proctor burned the fort and navy yard at Malden and retreated. He was overtaken by Harrison on October 5, and took position on the Thames. He was supported by Tecumseh and his Indians. It was at the battle of the Thames

that Richard Mentor Johnson, afterwards Vice President, won considerable reputation, and Tecumseh lost his life. Proctor made the mistake of forming the British in open order, the plan that was adopted in Indian fighting. Taking advantage of the mistake, Harrison ordered Col. Johnson to lead a cavalry charge. The latter, with half his men, attacked the Indians; while his brother, with the remainder, attacked the British. They broke through the enemy's lines and ended the battle. Within five minutes a large part of the British were captured, Proctor escaping only by abandoning his carriage and fleeing to the woods. During the attack Col. Johnson killed an Indian chief whom he thought to be Tecumseh, while he himself received several wounds and was carried from the field almost dead. Tecumseh was killed in the beginning of the fight, and there is little doubt that he was slain by Johnson.

Though the number of men engaged in the battle of the Thames was inconsiderable, the result was very important. With Commodore Perry's victory, it gave the Americans the possession of the lakes above Erie, and put an end to the war in Upper Canada. Harrison became one of the heroes of the day, and celebrations were held throughout the country in his honor. In 1814 he resigned, owing to a slight by the

Secretary of War, and saw no further military service.

- After the war he was chosen to Congress. It was charged by his enemies, when a resolution was offered in Congress to have gold medals struck in honor of him and Col. Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, for the victory of the Thames, that he would not have pursued Proctor after the British abandonment of Malden if Gov. Shelby had not urged such a course. The latter denied this in a letter which was read before the Senate. In 1818 Harrison received the medal, and continued to grow in popularity, notwithstanding all aspersions.

In 1824 he was sent to the United States Senate. In that body he succeeded Andrew Jackson as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. He was very active in endeavoring to obtain pensions for old soldiers. He resigned four years later to accept the appointment of Minister to Columbia; but at the outset of Jackson's administration he was recalled at the instance of Gen. Simon Bolivar, to whom he had written a letter while Bolivar was exerting himself for the South Americans, urging that patriot not to accept dictatorial powers. He retired to his farm near Cincinnati, becoming county court clerk and president of the agricultural society of the county.

In 1835 he was nominated for the presidency by the opposition to Van Buren. The latter was elected. Four years later he became the candidate of the National Whigs for the same office, with John Tyler for Vice President. This canvass was one of the most exciting in American history up to that time, introducing the noisy mass meetings and processions so common since during presidential campaigns. It was called the log cabin and hard cider campaign. Harrison was elected by an overwhelming majority over Van Buren, receiving two hundred and thirty-four electoral votes to the latter's sixty. On April 14, 1841, just one month after his inauguration, he died, John Tyler succeeding to the presidency.

In this hurrah election the Whigs really had no platform of principles. They merely hoped to get into office by opposing the administration of Van Buren, which had been very unsatisfactory. Harrison was really neutral in politics. Tyler was a Southern Democrat, and was nominated because he represented the independent or anti-Jackson Democrats.

President Harrison was a man of honor, and would have done his utmost for the entire country if he had lived.

## JOHN TYLER.

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FOR some reason John Tyler is not now regarded generally as having been a strong man intellectually and executively, but this idea is erroneous. He was an orator and statesman of more than average ability, while Calhoun did not possess more courage in support of the principles he considered right.



As a member of Congress he often had occasion to come in conflict with the views of Andrew Jackson, then becoming a power in politics; but later on, so free was he from prejudice, he did not hesitate to indorse the hero of New Orleans for President in preference to Clay and Floyd. Like Jackson, he disapproved of South Carolina's attitude on the question of nullification; but at the same time he objected to Jackson's famous proclamation of December 10, 1832, aimed against South Carolina, as a "tremendous engine of federalism," tending against the then cherished principle of State rights. These feel-

ings prompted him, while a member of the United States Senate, to support Clay's compromise tariff, introduced in the Senate on February 12, 1833. On the "force bill," clothing the President with extraordinary powers for the purpose of enforcing the tariff law, he gave an instance that he had the courage of his convictions. When the bill was put to vote some of its opponents were absent, and others went out in order to avoid placing themselves on record. The vote was taken, and stood: Yeas, 32; nay, 1. John Tyler voted nay.

It was during Tyler's prominence that the most exciting election that had ever come off in the United States was held. There had been a "split" in the Democratic party, and Tyler was disaffected, and desired to see the overthrow of what he considered a tyrannical faction led by Jackson, Van Buren, and Thomas H. Benton. In the Whig convention of 1839 no platform of principles was adopted. William Henry Harrison was nominated for President and Tyler for Vice President. The canvass was uproarious; there was little appeal to sober reason. Gen. Harrison was the hero of Tippecanoe, and the Whigs' "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" was yelled by them with as much enthusiasm as was Sam Houston's war cry of "Remember the Alamo!" They carried the election.

Tyler became President on the death of Harrison. His views were in almost every essential in conflict with those of the Whigs. As a consequence he soon found himself in "hot water," to use a common expression, while occupying the President's chair. Horace Greeley said of Jefferson Davis when the latter was Secretary of War: "He will not steal himself, and he will not permit any one else to steal." Tyler was as obdurate in the positions he took, so that those who had elected him Vice President began unrelenting war on him. When such of their measures as did not suit him were passed he promptly vetoed them. They planned and implored and threatened. But he could not be bullied, hoodwinked, or bribed. On the passage of what was known as the "fiscal corporation bill," a provision to create a bank in the District of Columbia, with branches throughout the United States, and not making a proper provision for the consent of the States, there was precipitated a problem that might have dismayed a less determined person. The bill was passed by the Senate September 4, 1841; it was vetoed September 9; and on September 11 Thomas Ewing, Secretary of the Treasury; John Bell, Secretary of War; George E. Badger, Secretary of the Navy; John J. Crittenden, Attorney-General; and Francis Granger, Postmaster General, re-

signed their positions. The adjournment of Congress had been fixed for September 13, and it was hoped that this and the resignation of his Cabinet—with the exception of Daniel Webster, Secretary of State—would force Tyler to give up. But he appointed a new Cabinet on the 13th, and continued what the Whigs called “an unwarrantable assumption of power” in vetoing their pet measures. The wholesale resignation was intended to make the President resign.

The latter part of Tyler’s administration was taken up with the Ashburton treaty with Great Britain, the Oregon question, and the annexation of Texas. By the summer of 1844 the alliance between the Whigs and Tyler’s wing of the Democratic party passed away, but he was never afterwards in favor with the Democracy.

The last years of his life were spent at his home near Greenway, in his native State of Virginia, and his last days were disturbed over the war between the States. He suggested and assisted in forming a peace convention after the secession of South Carolina. As a commissioner he waited on President Buchanan, but nothing came of the movement to preserve the Union peaceably. He did not wholly indorse secession, but condemned coercion as unjustifiable. He was a member of the Provisional Congress of the Southern Confederacy.

## GEORGE F. PIERCE.

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IF we except the pioneers and missionaries, usually there is not that interest attaching to the preachers which attaches to the careers of statesmen, warriors, and even literary men. That of George F. Pierce was one of the exceptions.

He and his father were known throughout Methodism as "the two Pierces, father and son"—the former, Lovick Pierce, having been a well-known minister for the full number of years accorded man, and for half a century one of the leading lights in his denomination.

The son was born in Georgia, and had fair advantages. The society in which his young years were passed was the best, a circumstance of no little importance in the formation of character, and he was often brought in contact with such men as Senator Thomas W. Cobb, Senator William C. Dawson, and Judge A. B.

Longstreet, author of the once-famous "Georgia Scenes." He was graduated before he reached his nineteenth year, and began the study of the law. This profession was not distasteful to him, but he was impressed with the idea that he should preach, and it bore so heavily on his mind that he gave up Blackstone for the study of the Bible, and resolved to enter the ministry.

Carlyle, the great English author and thinker, wrote a book on the philosophy of old clothes, and made more out of the subject than any one else could have done. The history of clothes, the extent to which they have figured in the world's affairs, would make a larger volume than "Sartor Resartus." The early Methodists laid much stress on their wearing apparel. Rings, flounces; ruffles, all fashionable dress were denounced, it is true, and yet the Methodist preacher was partial to his straight-breasted coat and broad-brimmed hat. When young, Pierce found that his foppish way of dressing militated against his popularity as much as Bishop Marvin's plain garb afterwards militated against his. This was shown when he signified a desire to preach. The person in charge of this circuit was John Collinsworth, a man of iron, and he believed that a Methodist should show by every mark that he was not of the

world. When told that Pierce, whose hair stood up on his forehead and did not, like his or Bishop Asbury's, lie down upon it, and who attended church in a suit of broadcloth with brass buttons, he was unalterably opposed to granting the license. The society, says his biographer, was to decide upon his fitness before the Quarterly Conference could hear from the application. The day of the Church session Collinsworth met him and said firmly but kindly: "George, these people want you to be recommended for license, but if you get the recommendation you must take this coat off. No man can be licensed to preach in a coat like this."

"I have no other Sunday coat but this," replied the young man, "and it would not be right to throw it away and ask pa to get me another one."

"I tell you, my son, this coat must come off."

"Well, if they are going to license my coat, and not me, I will change it; but I don't expect to change it until I am obliged to get another."

Collinsworth was in a minority, and after debating Pierce's coat sometime, the society agreed to license him, swallow-tailed coat and all. It is pleasant to note that years after, when the candidate showed his capacity for and devotion

to the itineracy, Collinsworth admitted that the young man would really make a Methodist preacher.

One of his earliest appointments is thus described by him: "I rode ten miles through a drenching rain to Flat Rock Chapel, to find only two persons there—a man and a boy. I was wet to the skin and benumbed. After waiting a few minutes and no additions coming, I said: 'We might as well leave here, as there will be no congregation.' The man quietly responded: 'Through five miles of pelting rain I have come to hear preaching.' I saw at once my duty, and said, 'You are right; you are entitled to it,' and for one hour I addressed my little congregation, and was never heard with more attention."

At the age of twenty-one he was installed at Augusta, and even at that age was an orator who was the wonder as well as the admiration of his flock and the surrounding country. After this, only a few months later, he was appointed to preach at Savannah, then the largest city in Georgia.

Like most of the preachers of that time, his pay was not sufficient to support a family in affluence, but he married, and soon after was sent to Charleston. Landing there with his young wife among entire strangers, with only two dollars and fifty cents, they walked two miles to

the parsonage. The incident is recorded to demonstrate anew that where there's a will there's a way, and that one compelled to undergo such hardships may yet rise to the most important position, as Pierce rose.

Col. Richard Malcolm Johnston, whose fame as a litterateur became national after the civil war, thus describes the camp meetings that were so common in Pierce's early days, and the power of the young man: "O, what an array of pigs and lambs and chickens and turkeys and geese and ducks and melons and fruits and pies and all such (at these gatherings)! These are not to the purpose, I admit. But at this late date and this remote place I cannot think, without thanks, of those dinners. But let these go now. Except in the eating line it was rather a dull time for two or three days, and the preachers would scold the young men when, after escorting the girls to the stand, they would go back to the tents and smoke their cigars. In these days George Pierce would have little to say, but as the time approached when it was expected to break up he would seem to be oppressed with grief that so little had been done in bringing sinners to repentance. And then he would begin—and such sermons! . . . His round, sonorous voice, as from time to time he rose on tiptoe and poured it out in its full pow-

er, reverberated among the woods far beyond the limits of the camp, and one could almost imagine that he could see the terrific things that are to befall the lost in the eternal world. And how they did rush then to the altar, young men and maidens, old men and women. They had terror in their faces, too, and in their hearts."

At the age of twenty-five he was the most popular preacher in Georgia of any denomination. When the female school was organized in Macon he became President; this was in 1838. He had his political convictions too—was, as a friend of his has said, an old-time Whig till the party died; then a Union man, then a fully developed friend of the Confederacy, and last of all a Democrat of a somewhat Bourbonish cast. He believed in slavery, declaring that it was the best for the negro race while living among the whites, and when the great rupture occurred in the Church in 1844 he denounced in scathing terms the movements of the abolitionists of the North and of those leaders in the Church who made war on Bishop Andrew when through his marriage he became the owner of slaves. He was one of the most impassioned and fearless speakers on that occasion. He termed the abolitionists "busybodies in other men's matters, a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet us," and referred to their

movement as "the foul spirit of the pit, the Juggernaut of perdition."

At the Conference of 1854 he was elected bishop. He was until his death one of the most active workers in the college. He traveled much in this capacity, and from his letters, always interesting, we get insight into matters not of current knowledge. For instance, he in 1855 thus describes an Indian revival in the West: "On Sabbath night I tried to preach, by request, without an interpreter, as most of the Indians would understand me, and many whites were anxious to hear. Brother Mitchell concluded with an exhortation, and invited mourners to the altar. Several came forward, and the closing exercises were resigned to the Indian preachers. They sang, prayed, wept, clapped their hands, and seemed as much at home in the business as we are at a camp meeting. The strange sounds, all barbarian to me, amused me; but the tones, the spirit, the earnestness of the people, melted me to tears. I felt that the religion of the Bible had obliterated the distinctions of color, race, and nation, and that a common salvation made us brethren in spirit, partakers of like precious faith, one in sympathy, hope, and prospect."

Dr. Pierce was bishop for thirty years. He died in 1884.

## JOHN BELL.

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JOHN BELL's father was a farmer of fair circumstances, and lived near Nashville, Tenn., where the son was born, in 1797. The latter, after preparing himself for the law, located at Franklin, and was shortly elected to the Legislature. Refusing a reelection,

he adhered to his profession until 1827, when he became a candidate for Congress against Felix Grundy. Both of these candidates were avowed friends of Gen. Jackson, though Bell was not quite so enthusiastic in his support, and he was twenty years younger than Grundy. The latter had considerable experience in the public service, having been on the supreme bench of Kentucky. In his adopted State of Tennessee he had been elected to Congress. Moreover, he had been a warm supporter of the war of 1812, the Federalists having declared that that war was instigated by Madison, Grundy, and the devil. Perhaps he was the greatest

criminal lawyer that the Southwest has ever produced. He was said never to have defended but one man who was afterwards hanged. It can be imagined, therefore, that the person having the temerity to oppose him would not win success without a considerable struggle, with the fates in his behalf. But Bell was no mean opponent. He had been a student, had enjoyed a classical education, and his talents for speaking had been assiduously improved. His powerful logic on the stump and his thorough grasp of the political questions, his power of invective, and his elevated tone of oratory, made him a delight in the days when the people got their intellectual pabulum from the public speakers. Gen. Jackson appreciated blind devotion on the part of his friends, and perhaps this is why he took sides with Grundy, a more *vociferous* friend than Bell. Bell was elected by a considerable majority, but he felt sore over Jackson's unfriendliness, and remembered Jackson's offense to the latter's hurt.

He was reëlected to Congress six terms, and was for ten years Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs. On the floor of the Lower House he was admired for his oratory; but he was not a debater, and he never gained the ascendancy there to which he was really entitled. He was at first a free trader, but became an ear-

nest protectionist, doubtless assuring himself in making such a radical change that the fear of change is the hobgoblin of little souls. He was also opposed to nullification.

In 1832 he showed his animosity toward Jackson by protesting against the removal of the United States Bank deposits, having voted against rechartering the bank. This widened the breach between the two distinguished Tennesseans.

Bell was one of the founders of the Whig party. He and his followers were called the New Whigs by the Democrats. He opposed the election of Martin Van Buren to the Presidency, and that "completed his sins in the estimation of Jackson." But the latter could not prevent his reelection to Congress. He was made Secretary of War under President Harrison, and was a member of Tyler's Cabinet when all the members thereof except Webster resigned in the celebrated fight of the Whigs against Tyler for his alleged treason to their party.

In 1847 he was elected to the United States Senate, of which body he was a member for twelve years. Here he was appreciated at his worth; here he properly displayed his talents, and he was a distinguished figure where towered such statesmen as Henry Clay, Stephen A.

Douglas, John J. Crittenden, Charles Sumner, Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin, and Andrew Johnson.

He was prominent in the Senate in his opposition to the radical measures of the abolitionists, and was a "constitutional Union" man. In 1860 he was nominated for the Presidency, Edward Everett receiving the nomination for the Vice Presidency, the split occurring at the time among the Conservatives assuring the election of Abraham Lincoln. After the election of Lincoln he advocated secession, although, like many another prominent Southern statesman, he had opposed this measure previous to 1861.

With the exception of Jackson and Andrew Johnson, Bell was perhaps the brainiest statesman Tennessee has produced. He died at Cumberland Iron Works, Tenn., in 1869.

## JOHN B. McFERRIN.

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**DURING** the nineteenth century the Methodist Church gave to America some of its most eloquent and scholarly men. If they were to pass in review before the imagination, somewhat as Carlyle introduces certain notables of the French Revolution,

the on-looker would be profoundly impressed by the pageant; and perhaps the gaze would rest long on the robust person of the subject of this sketch.

Born of humble and obscure parentage at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and denied great educational advantages, it was his destiny to be one of Methodism's mainstays—his to figure prominently in some of the most important affairs of his time; his to be pointed at after a ministerial career of threescore years and have it said: "Here was a man."

John B. McFerrin was educated in what some one has termed the People's University,

an old field school. At the age of sixteen he was a class leader, and a minister of the gospel before he arrived at his majority. When a very young man he was for some reason sent as a missionary to the Cherokee Indians. His station was Creek Path, lying south of the Tennessee River, near what is now known as Carter's Landing. His work embraced three regular preaching places, besides a small school for Indian children. He was equal to the task, young as he was, inexperienced as he was, used as the Indians were to associating wisdom with age. He and his associates were instrumental in converting to Christianity a number of the most prominent Cherokees, among them John Ross, the principal chieftain.

After his two years' service among the Indians he was sent to preach to the white people again. He gradually rose by force of character and labor, even among such rivals in the Church as Robert Paine, A. L. P. Green, Fountain E. Pitts, John W. Hanner, Thomas Maddin, and others equally as powerful and gifted; and it was not long before he was assigned to Nashville, then the capital of Tennessee and the home of some of the brightest lawyers and statesmen of the Southwest. Here he proved himself as worthy of the title of the "Great Commoner" as Jackson or Johnson; he became

equally popular with Christians and with the horse-racing and treating politicians. Perhaps this capacity for keeping the confidence and veneration of the worldly was instrumental in creating the strong religious convictions of some of the leading men of the times, whose vocations were not conducive to spiritual meditation.

In the sketches of Andrew Jackson and other statesmen we rarely find any extended reference to their connection with religious bodies. The session of the Tennessee Conference for 1838 was held at Nashville. McFerrin tells a touching episode of the session. "During the session of the Conference," he says, "Gen. Jackson, ex-President of the United States, visited the city and expressed a desire to visit the Conference, as he had some old friends in the body. Joshua Boucher, Robert Paine, and myself were appointed a committee to wait on the General and escort him to the Conference room. The scene was interesting and affecting. Gen. Jackson was growing old, had become a Christian, and was a great friend to the Methodists. He was introduced to the Bishop and then to the Conference, and after a few pleasant words the body was called to prayer. Bishop Andrew offered a most fervent address to the throne of grace, while the whole Conference responded with

heartly 'Amen.' The General then passed down the aisle of the church, when each preacher gave him the parting hand. When Cornelius Evans, a plain old farmer-looking preacher, grasped his hand, the General exclaimed, 'Mr. Evans!' and both burst into tears. Evans had been one of his brave soldiers in the Indian wars. They had not met for years. Both became soldiers of Jesus Christ, and now met in the Church of God. Gen. Jackson recognized him instantly."

While the spiritual salvation of the humblest is as important as that of the most exalted personage, there is yet an unusual interest attaching to the fact that the conversion of President James K. Polk was under Dr. McFerrin. In 1833, near Columbia, Tenn., he preached a sermon which greatly affected Polk, then a young lawyer, and the impression was indelible. From that day the latter was a changed man. He did not connect himself with the Church, however. It is said that the reason for this was that his wife and mother were Presbyterians, while he was a Methodist in belief, and he did not care to separate from them in Church affiliation. On his return from Washington, at the expiration of his term as President, he settled in Nashville. His fixed purpose was to join the Church. In his last illness he sent for McFer-

rin, revealed the matter to him, and requested that he be baptized and received into the Methodist Church. McFerrin also preached the funeral sermon, from the text on which was preached the one under which Polk was convicted in 1833.

The *Southwestern Christian Advocate* had been located at Nashville in 1836, and Rev. Thomas Stringfield made editor. Stringfield declined a reelection, and in 1840 McFerrin became editor, a position he held for eighteen years. A biographer says: "His extraordinary physical and mental energy enabled him to perform the work of several men. He wrote editorials, he edited obituaries, he wrestled with the volunteer poets (whose name then as now was legion), he clipped and pasted selections, he acted as mailing clerk, he canvassed for subscribers, he hired and paid the printers, he preached at camp meetings and in revivals, and conducted theological controversies."

McFerrin was a delegate to the General Conference at New York in 1844—the most memorable Conference in the annals of Methodism in this country—and was Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy. It is unnecessary to say that his sympathies were with the South in the great cataclysm of that year, as he was a leading Southern sympathizer in the war between the

States—preaching to the Confederates encamped near Greensboro, N. C., while Joseph E. Johnston and the Federals were settling on the terms of surrender.

In 1881 he attended the Methodist Ecumenical Conference in London, and the Centenary Conference in Baltimore three years later. At the first he was particularized by the English papers as being one of the Americans who had a peculiarly distinct personal appearance; at the latter he was perhaps the most venerable figure.

In conclusion, Dr. McFerrin, while having some antagonisms in the Church, was held in the highest respect, and was greatly loved by those who best understood him. His treatment by his people and by all denominations tended to refute the idea that the Church crucifies, then canonizes her saints. As a preacher he was able, often eloquent, always convincing; in satire he was a master, and his wit was the life of every Conference he attended after rising to distinction.

## JAMES K. POLK.

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NORTH CAROLINA has been called the Rip Van Winkle of the States, but many of the great men of this government were born in North Carolina. Andrew Jackson, Thomas Benton, John Sevier, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk hailed from that State.

Polk removed to Tennessee at an early age. His first distinction in politics was when he, in an age and country when dueling was a proper mode of settling "affairs of honor," secured in the State Legislature the enactment of a law to prevent the practice. In 1825 he was elected to Congress, and was reelected in every succeeding election until 1839, when he retired to become the Democratic candidate for Governor of Tennessee, and was elected to that position.

Before the next election for Governor came off the Whig party had gained numerically. He had an opponent, too, who gave him more trouble than he had ever before had on the

stump. This was James C. Jones, a farmer who had, up to his nomination, made little reputation out of his county. Though thus inexperienced and unknown to fame, Jones was to meet the greatest stump speaker in the Southwest. With an intuition, or because of his great knowledge of human nature, Polk dreaded Jones, and tried to avoid him, but the latter made every sacrifice to meet him. A historian says: "Jones's personal appearance gave him an advantage on the stump. He was ungainly and very slender. He was six feet two inches tall, and weighed only one hundred and twenty-five pounds. He walked with a precise military step, not unlike a soldier on parade. His complexion was swarthy, his nose was large, and his expression was grave and solemn. His hair was thin and curly. His mouth was extraordinarily large. His eyes were small and gray, and were shaded by heavy eyebrows. But his address, which was cordial and kind, more than redeemed his personal appearance. He had a touch of pleasant deference which rendered him extremely popular with his female constituency. He lacked the personal dignity which made it difficult for Polk to unbend in the light *badinage* of flippant conversation. He avoided all serious argument. But he had a genius for perverting and confounding words

and terms, and would frequently harp on what he called a strange inconsistency of his worthy opponent, which resulted alone in his using some word used by Polk, and giving it a different significance. Jones was a master of all the arts of caricature and simulation. His impressive gravity, his powers of ridicule and travesty, his anecdotes told with irresistible humor, added to his queer figure, his capacious mouth, and his large nose, kept his audience in a state of perpetual uproar. People began to laugh the moment he arose. He told the most grotesque, the most ludicrous anecdotes with a mien of funereal gravity. When at a loss for something to say, he looked solemnly toward his audience, and then turned slowly and reproachfully toward his competitor, while the crowd burst into roars of laughter at the sight. The Democrats and Polk were mortified but not surprised when the same party which had elected Harrison President with cabins, coons, and cider elected Jones Governor with anecdotes, laughter, and waggery."

When nominated for President against Henry Clay, Polk fared better than in his second canvass for Governor: he was elected. In making the canvass he advanced the promise that if elected he would never again ask for the office. This was an innovation. When elected he hon-

ored literature by making the historian, George Bancroft, a member of his cabinet.

During his administration the war with Mexico occurred. This was perhaps forced by the United States; at least it may be said now that the differences between the two countries could have been settled without resort to arms. There were those who talked then as now of our manifest destiny; and there were those who held with Lowell in the "Biglow Papers,"

That all this big talk of our destinies  
Is half of it ign'ance an' t'other half rum.

The American army under Gen. Zachary Taylor had actually been ordered on Mexican territory, and when it was declared that Mexico had committed an outrage on American soil, Abraham Lincoln, then in Congress, introduced his "spot resolution" to ascertain where the outrage was committed. The administration was forced into the war through politics, though before his nomination Polk declared for annexation of Texas.

It seemed for a time that he would have to conduct another war also, this time between England and the United States over the boundary of Oregon, but the question was satisfactorily settled by treaty.

On the subject of the tariff Polk was of the opinion that the farmer and planter were as

much entitled to protection as the mechanic. In accordance with his views, a bill providing for a purely revenue tariff was framed and adopted.

The old conflict between the friends and opponents of slavery came up as a prominent feature while he was President. He was not a slavery propagandist, and so had no proslavery policy. He deprecated the agitation of the matter by the abolitionists, and encouraged such compromises as would tend to keep the Union intact.

It must be admitted that the administration of Polk was brilliant. For \$15,000,000, in addition to direct war taxes, New Mexico and Upper California were gained, and our southwestern boundary extended to the Rio Grande. Through his recommendation there was the ratification of the treaty which gave American citizens the right of way across the Isthmus of Panama; and other advantages due to him were the postal treaty with Great Britain in 1848, and the commercial treaty with the secondary states of the German confederation, by which we could reach growing markets on favorable terms.

Vice President Dallas's tribute to Polk is just,—to the effect that he was temperate but not unsocial, industrious but accessible, punctual but patient, moral without austerity, and devotional but not bigoted.

## ROGER B. TANEY.

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Two of the most noted chief justices of the United States have been from the South: John Marshall and Roger B. Taney (pronounced Tawney). Both had experience in statesmanship also.



Taney was born in Maryland, and was a brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key, author of the national song, "The Star-Spangled Banner." His acuteness and eloquence soon placed him among the foremost lawyers of his State. He had political ambitions, but became somewhat unpopular on account of defending Gen. James Wilkinson before a court-martial. Gen. Wilkinson, who had been a soldier under Washington, becoming intimate with Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr during the time, had undertaken the betrayal of his country to Spain by trying to induce the pioneers of Kentucky and the western territory of North Carolina to become alienated from the colonies and attach

themselves to Spain. Later on, he was thought to be connected with Burr in his scheme to erect a southwestern empire. Through an idea that Gen. Wilkinson was unjustly charged, Taney was induced to defend the officer, sharing the odium that attached to the latter, and refusing to take a fee. Eight years afterwards he again defied the disapprobation of his neighbors by courageously appearing in defense of Jacob Gruber, a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania who had in a camp meeting condemned slavery in bitter language, and who was indicted as an inciter of insurrection among the negroes. In view of an expression afterwards used by Taney in the famous Dred Scott decision, it is interesting to note that in his opening argument for Gruber he declared of slavery that "while it continues it is a blot on our national character."

Taney was a great friend of Andrew Jackson, becoming the latter's most trusted counselor, and encouraged the President in his war on the United States Bank. This made him unpopular with Jackson's political enemies, and when he was appointed Secretary of State the hostile majority rejected the appointment, it being the first time that the President's selection of a cabinet officer had not been confirmed.

After the death of John Marshall, Taney was

nominated to be Chief Justice of the United States, and though Henry Clay was active in denouncing the appointment, it was confirmed by a vote of twenty-nine against fifteen. Two of America's greatest law writers (Joseph Story and Jame Kent) were on the bench with him, and often dissented from his opinions. The truth is, Taney believed in State rights, while Marshall was inclined against the doctrine, and that fact is one of the reasons the latter has always been more popular with the North, and not because he was a greater jurist.

From 1854 till his death Judge Taney was called upon to decide cases that affected not only individuals, but sections of the Union. In that year, in the midst of the excitement that attended the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill and the strife of the slaveholders and free-soilers, he was confronted by the famous Dred Scott case. It involved the question: Could Congress exclude slavery in the Territories? After being twice argued, the case was decided in 1857. The opinion of the court was written by the Chief Justice. He held that Dred Scott, a slave, was debarred from seeking a remedy in the United States Court of Missouri, as he was not a citizen of that State, and, being a slave, could not become a citizen by act of any State or of the United States. In the opinion this dictum

was made, which set the abolitionists to harping more than ever: "They [the negroes] had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit." As a consequence, the decision—containing a proposition that we must look on to-day as an extreme one—produced a strong reaction in favor of the antislavery party. William H. Seward, in the Senate, made a direct attack on the Supreme Court.

In 1858 a second "slave case" was presented, and as all these assisted materially in hastening the civil war, it is necessarily of interest as history as well as a pointer to a great man's way of reasoning. Sherman M. Booth, who had been sentenced by the United States District Court for aiding in the escape of a negro from slavery, was released by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, which refused to notice the subsequent mandates of the Supreme Court of the United States relative to the affair.

This was bordering on the doctrine of nullification, which appeared odious in South Carolina a quarter of a century before. The Su-

preme Court of the United States reversed the judgment of the Court of Wisconsin, declaring the fugitive slave law constitutional—that it was the law of the land; whereupon Wisconsin's Legislature placed that State side by side with South Carolina as to nullification. It declared that the States, as parties to a compact, have an equal right to determine infractions of their rights and the mode of their redress, and that the judgment of the Federal Court was "void and of no force."

Chief Justice Taney died on the day on which Maryland abolished slavery.

## ZACHARY TAYLOR.

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WASHINGTON, Jackson, and William Henry Harrison had been elected to the presidency on their military record. His activity in military affairs made Zachary Taylor the Twelfth President of the United States.

When a young man Taylor saw service against the Indians. "In such service," as a biographer has suggested, "not the less hazardous or indicative of merit because on a small scale, he passed the period of his employment on the frontier, until the treaty of peace with Great Britain (in our second war with that country) disposed the Indians to be quiet." In 1836 he had been promoted to a colonelcy, and was ordered to Florida for service in the Seminole war. The next year he defeated the Indians at Okechobee, the battle being a decisive one. He was then made a brigadier general, and appointed to the chief command of Florida.

When Mexico threatened the invasion of Texas, which State had been annexed to the United States, he was appointed to defend it as a portion of this country. His career during the war with Mexico was characterized by conspicuous gallantry and skill.

It is stated, as showing the poor opinion the country had of the territory acquired from Mexico by the war, that Taylor, when President, sent Capt. W. T. Sherman to Arizona and Southern California to investigate their value. Young Sherman was gone some time. Returning to Washington, he called on the President.

"Well, Captain, what do you think of our new possessions?" asked Taylor. "Will they pay for the blood and treasure spent in the war?"

"Do you want my honest opinion?" replied Sherman.

"Yes, tell us privately just what you think."

"Well, General, it cost us one hundred millions of dollars and ten thousand men to carry on the war."

"Yes, fully that; but we got Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern California."

"Well, General," continued Sherman, "I've been out there and looked them over, and between you me I feel that we've got to go to war again. Yes, we've got to have another war."

"What for?" asked Taylor.

"Why, to make 'em take the infernal country back!"

Like Washington and Grant, he was "a silent man." Unpretending, meditative, and observant, he was best understood by those who knew him intimately. Before his nomination for the presidency it is said that he had no political ambitions. But his party, the Whigs, saw in him a popular candidate, and called him from his comparative retirement. Realizing that many years of military routine had kept him from a knowledge of the civil service, he formed a cabinet whose members would be his counselors. They were all lawyers, and had served in the Senate of the United States. But his administration, as was that of Harrison, was cut short by death, and what he would have accomplished in the capacity of President is merely speculative. "With him," says Jefferson Davis, his son-in-law, "the bestowal of office was a trust held for the people; it was not to be gained by proof of party zeal or labor. The fact of holding Democratic opinions was not a disqualification for the office. Nepotism had with him no quarter. So strict was he in this that to be a relative was an obstacle to appointment." All of his four sons were soldiers, either in the Confederate or United States armies.

## DAVID CROCKETT.

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MANY a beautiful and true maxim has been given us after painstaking study and selection of words, as, "Fidelity is seven-tenths business success," by Parton; or, "If any man seeks for greatness, let him forget greatness and ask for truth, and he will find both," by Mann; or, "Two persons cannot long be friends if they cannot forgive each other's failings," by Bruyère. But none of these sentences embodies more than that maxim coined on the moment by the backwoods statesman, Davy Crockett: "Be sure you are right, and then go ahead." The golden rule, charity, and perseverance are all compressed therein.



Crockett, whatever were his failings in other respects, lived up to the go-ahead part, and generally looked well to the right side of an undertaking. He had the hardihood to oppose Andrew Jackson when he thought that person was in the wrong, and when he thought the Texans

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were being tyrannized over he unhesitatingly laid down his life in their behalf. These are notable instances out of many in the life of that most original of all Tennesseans.

Crockett was born in Greene County, Tenn., in 1786. His father was a soldier of the Revolution, and was of Irish birth, and after the war opened a small tavern in East Tennessee, on the road from Knoxville to Abingdon. Those old taverns, or stations, were interesting places in the earlier settlements, and had guests of ruffians as well as refined persons; emigrants from the older States to the great and new Southwest, some of them soldiers who had fought under Washington and Marion; a sprinkling of Tories, perhaps, and adventurers who saw a chance to win a home and wealth in the wilderness.

At an early age he displayed the will which was one of his strongly marked characteristics. When only twelve his father hired him to an old Dutchman, with whom he went four hundred miles on foot; but the lad remained in this service only a few weeks, when he ran away and returned home.

His father then sent him to school. He got along for four days pretty well, but at the end of that time he had a quarrel with one of the pupils and gave him a sound flogging. He

thereupon played truant; and finally, knowing that he would be chastised by his father if he went home, he left the neighborhood.

For three years his life was somewhat hard—his lines were indeed cast in unpleasant places. He worked three years for teamsters in Tennessee, Maryland, and Virginia, and for eighteen months was bound to a hatter in the Old Dominion. At last, like the prodigal son, his thoughts centered on home, and he returned.

The good effect which the memory of home has had on mankind is an argument for the protection of that "castle" from all the movements that would undermine it, and for parents to make it as pleasant as possible to those under their care. Recollections of it may be a means of turning into a more useful channel a life wrongly begun. When upon the heights of Beth-el Jacob asked of Jehovah that he might come again to his father's house in peace; this was homesickness. Before Joseph's death in Egypt he exacted of his attendants that some day his bones should be carried back to the scenes familiar to his childhood; this was because of homesickness. What was it but this sentiment that made Daniel in captivity keep his window open in the direction of Canaan?

This mighty emotion which survives all vicissitudes may have softened greatly the heart of

the Tennessee boy, grown wild and reckless through his associations; for on his return it seems that he was more obedient, and was so filial and sensitive to honor that he worked hard for a year to pay two notes amounting to seventy-six dollars which his father owed.

When almost grown to manhood he was ignorant in books, and attended school only six months. Marrying at the age of twenty-two or twenty-three, he settled in Franklin County, then one of the wildest portions of the State. Here he devoted himself to hunting, and made quite a reputation on account of his success in bear-hunting, for even that late to be efficient with the rifle, and thus taming the wilderness, was an accomplishment. Whatever his sphere, Crockett seemed to use his best endeavors; and it is more honorable to succeed in a humble undertaking than to be placed in an exalted one and fail.

When the Creek Indian war came up, in 1813, he enlisted in a regiment of sixty-day volunteers, and served through the war. He and Sam Houston won the praise of Gen. Jackson in this war, and Jackson's early friendship was of material benefit to both afterwards in their political aspirations.

The love of adventure was inherent in him, it seems; for after the defeat of the Indians he

settled on Shoal Creek, another wild section of country, and he and a few other settlers formed a temporary government, he being made magistrate. He was subsequently appointed colonel of militia.

He now evinced some aspirations for office, and became a candidate for the State Legislature. Although uneducated, and knowing but little about the political questions of the day, he was elected by a considerable majority, winning, it is said, by telling humorous stories and by his skill with the rifle. After a while he was elected to Congress, supporting Jackson. He served two terms.

In his second term he was a bitter opponent of Old Hickory, although he must have known that his position would bring about defeat in a district which considered Jackson a hero. Said he on one occasion: "I am at liberty to vote as my conscience and judgment dictate to be right, without the yoke of any party on me, or the driver at my heels with his whip in hand, commanding me to gee-whoa-haw, just at his pleasure."

His independence brought about his defeat for the third term; and, discomfited, but mainly sympathizing with the Texans in their struggle for independence, he repaired to Texas, and gave up his life in their defense, winning, like

Byron in the cause of Greece, an abiding fame in the history of heroic deeds.

In Washington he was very popular on account of his native shrewdness and common sense, and noted because of his eccentricities.

In 1833 there appeared an unauthorized account of his life from a Philadelphia house, and he followed it with a characteristic autobiography. He also published a "Tour to the North and Down East," and a readable burlesque, "Life of Van Buren, Heir Apparent to the Government."

In the war between Texas and Mexico he and one hundred and thirty-nine others made a most gallant defense of the Alamo against an overwhelming force of Mexicans. He was one of only six survivors who finally surrendered, and were massacred by order of Santa Anna.

His son, John W. Crockett, rose also to distinction, being at one time a member of Congress.

Crockett had personal frailties, but he also had many noble attributes of heart, and his career calls to mind the lines of Joaquin Miller on Byron and Burns:

In men whom men condemn as ill  
I find so much of goodness still,  
In men whom men pronounce divine  
I find so much of sin and blot;  
I hesitate to draw a line  
Between the two where God has not.

## JEFFERSON DAVIS.

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On his last years were cruel-  
ly expended  
Hope's curse and slan-  
der's spleen;  
But tears of those he loved  
long and defended  
Will keep his memory  
green.



THE most hated of all men in one part of the American republic in the latter half of the nineteenth century was Jefferson Davis. He was as deeply venerated in another part during that period as the representative of a cause that was lost. Men do not revere their dead the less because they are dead.

Two paths of distinction were open to him: he might have been a great soldier instead of a distinguished statesman. On his graduation he served in the army on the frontier, taking part in the Black Hawk war of 1831-32; but in 1835 resigned his position of lieutenant of dragoons, married (after a romantic elopement) a daughter of Zachary Taylor, and retired to a plantation in Mississippi. But he was not contented with

private life, and became a candidate for Congress in 1845, and was elected. Resigning that office, he became a colonel of the First Mississippi Rifles, and led his regiment to reënforce Gen. Taylor in the war with Mexico. His skill and gallantry were so conspicuous that his father-in-law, it is said, refused longer to harbor any ill feelings which grew out of the marriage of his daughter to Davis. At Monterey he charged on Fort Leneria without bayonets, and led his command through the streets nearly to the grand plaza amid a storm of shot; and at Buena Vista he gained a signal victory over a much larger force.

He was elected United States Senator twice before the civil war, and was a zealous State rights advocate. He resigned his seat in the Senate, and was made Secretary of War by President Pierce, and there has not been an abler Secretary of War since the foundation of the government, perhaps.

When the Southern States seceded he was in the United States Senate, and resigned after Mississippi went out of the Union.

He became President of the Southern Confederacy, while Alexander H. Stephens became Vice President. In his first message to the Provisional Congress, while condemning as illegal and absurd Lincoln's proclamation calling for

troops to put down the rebellion, he made use of the words, "All we ask is to be let alone," which was so often referred to during those days.

The people have always made use of their prerogative to grumble. The public seems to forget when disasters befall that its leaders are only human. In the revolutionary war there was a great conspiracy, encouraged largely by the people and Congress, to have Gen. Washington removed as commander of the army; in the second war with England there was a large element who thought that Madison was not conducting the war wisely. Lincoln was blamed and cried down; and in the war with Spain in 1898 the administration came in for abuse. President Davis, after the first reverses, began to be harassed and criticised and charged with being the cause of the fall of New Orleans and Fort Donelson. This opposition grew until the close of the war. It may be that he was partially to blame for prolonging the war, since so many wise statesmen saw that the struggle of the South was useless as early as 1864, among them Gov. Zebulon Vance, of North Carolina, who wrote him a letter urging negotiation. But his sanguine temperament and his indomitable pluck blinded him to the growing weakness of the South. This was the extent of his sinning.

While encamped near Irwinsville, Ga., he was captured and taken to Fortress Monroe, where he was confined for two years. On May 8, 1866, he was indicted for treason in the United States Court for the District of Virginia. The charge of complicity in the assassination of Lincoln, a charge instigated by the frenzy of the times, was dropped. His leading lawyer, James T. Bradley, urged a speedy trial. But the government declined to proceed without further preparation, and the court refused to admit the distinguished prisoner to bail. Nearly a year later, however, he was admitted to bail in the amount of \$100,000. The first name on the bond was that of Horace Greeley, the great New York editor. After his release he traveled extensively in Europe. Excitement began to die out, the people's great love of justice returned, and the case against him was dismissed in December, 1868. During his confinement, when helpless and weak, and his prison strongly guarded, Nelson A. Miles placed him in irons, an act which the South has never forgiven, and which Gen. Miles's warmest admirers can hardly condone in good faith.

Whatever may have been the Southern people's idea of his administration, the impression they formed that he was to suffer alone as their representative made him more popular with

them than ever before. To-day he is their revered hero.

He, like Robert Toombs, never took the oath of allegiance to the United States, and some of the politicians never ceased to traduce him. In 1876, when the bill was before the House of Representatives to remove the political disabilities imposed on those who had fought for and aided the Confederacy, Blaine offered an amendment excepting Davis, making an onslaught on the latter which brought out the scathing reply of Ben Hill, of Georgia. In 1879, through the efforts of Zachariah Chandler, Davis was excepted in a bill to pension veterans of the Mexican war.

But the passions and prejudices of the war are passing away. The veterans of both sides are dwelling together as "Yorkist and Lancastrian." As late as 1899 a Republican President, a veteran of the Union army, intimated that the valor of the Confederates should be cherished as an American legacy, an honor to American arms. The country is thoroughly reunited, and it is the duty of every Southerner, while cherishing the glory won on the field by Southern valor, to assist in preserving the States, "though many as the waves, one as the sea."

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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THE two men who were pitted against each other from 1861 to 1865 as President of the United States and Chief Executive of the Southern Confederacy, Lincoln and Davis, were born in Kentucky. While Davis went to Mississippi, Lincoln

went with his parents to Indiana, and finally to Illinois.

After Lincoln was elected to Congress, in 1846, the chief Congressional measure with which his name was connected was a scheme for the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia. His idea might have been inspired by the earlier emancipation scheme of Clay in Kentucky, just as his patriotism was intensified by reading the "Life of Washington," by the Southerner, Weems.

The interest he took in the agitation of the slavery question was the foundation of his popularity in the new Republican party, made up

largely of antislavery Whigs, disaffected Democrats, and the abolitionists; and his election by that organization to the presidency was the signal for the Southern States of the Union to attempt secession.

It should be explained here, however, that, while the agitation of slavery hastened the conflict, it was not really the cause of the stubborn resistance of the South or the determined measures of the North. For the mere keeping of slaves in bondage the South did not give the flower of her young manhood and millions in property; for the mere freeing them the North would not have undertaken the task of fighting the South. Neither side, before things had gone too far for a peaceable settlement, thought that emancipation would be proclaimed; but one fought to preserve the Union intact, while the other strove to preserve the principle of State rights which had been held dear by even thousands of the people who made up the Union army, and to resent the violation of their constitutional rights. The Northern politicians, and not the South, had proved fickle, departing from "the old conception, the old traditions of the voluntary union of sovereign States."

Evidently Lincoln and the North were surprised at the force of the secession movement, and it is not strange that he should have made

some speeches and performed some acts which, looked at calmly now, must be regarded as palpable mistakes. But taken all in all, his administration during the war was fairly able, and he is regarded, at least from a Union standpoint, as a strong man for the time and occasion.

That the emancipation of the slaves was not the intention of Lincoln at the outset seems proven by his declaration to Horace Greeley in 1862: "My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; if I could do it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." He afterwards veered, doubtless through the instrumentality of the antislavery faction of his party, which saw the weakness of the South, and insisted on emancipation, though on this measure did not depend the saving of the Union.

His last public utterance gave the South, now conquered, reason to believe that his policy toward the seceding States would be comparatively mild, and when his death occurred at the hand of an assassin before anything could be definitely accomplished toward reconstruction, the people of the South generally deplored it with genuine sorrow. The circumstances of

his assassination are of course familiar to most readers, as given in contemporaneous history. The account of it in the life of Laura Keene, the actress, however, possesses a minuteness of detail which gives a deeper interest. It is substantially as follows: The play bill of Ford's Theater in Washington announced for the evening of April 14, 1865, the "Benefit and Last Night of Miss Laura Keene, the Distinguished Manageress, Authoress, and Actress;" and on the same sheet were the additional words: "This evening the performance will be honored by the presence of President Lincoln."

The President and family occupied a box on the northern side of the theater that evening, to witness the favorite star in "Our American Cousin." The box was just above and on the stage. Miss Keene was standing behind the scenes on the side farthest from the presidential box, awaiting her cue. Before the time at which she was to make her entrance, a shot was heard, and a man was seen to leap from the President's box to the stage, shouting, "*Sic semper tyrannis!* The South is avenged!" A moment after some one, holding a dagger, rushed by her, and she recognized John Wilkes Booth, the actor. As she hurried toward the front of the stage she could see many men on their feet, women were crying aloud, and children were

weeping—all in an indeterminate panic much as if an alarm of fire had been raised. Miss Keene, advancing toward the footlights, said to the audience: "For God's sake have presence of mind and keep your places, and all will be well."

The President had been shot, and Booth, after firing the shot and stabbing Maj. Rathbone, made his escape from the theater through a stage door, fleeing on a horse which had been provided for him. The assassin had been followed by a Mr. Stewart, one of the audience, down on the stage after his leap from the President's box, but had avoided him by dodging about the scenery, and had gotten away from the stage carpenter, who attempted to detain him by striking at him with the dagger. No one except Mr. Stewart tried to pursue the fugitive, though everybody seemed willing to aid. Amid the confusion Miss Keene heard a cry for water from the presidential box. Procuring a glass, she made her way from the stage to the box by way of the dress circle. Mrs. Lincoln was crying piteously. Miss Keene at once did everything in her power to aid, though she felt from the beginning that help was useless.

Booth was killed a few days afterwards. His diary for some reason was suppressed, but

it has been said on good authority that it contained his reasons for killing Lincoln. Among the papers of Dr. George Foote, of Warrenton, Va., there has been found one which gives the explanation of the animus of Booth, the motive for the killing of the President. Dr. Foote, a surgeon in the Confederate army, having fallen into the hands of the Federal forces, was imprisoned in Fort Columbus, New York harbor, in a cell next to that occupied by Capt. John Young Beall, a Confederate officer who was arrested and finally hanged by the Federal authorities on February 24, 1865, as a spy. While in the prison Dr. Foote was fully cognizant of the efforts made by Booth, who was Capt. Beall's roommate at college and his devoted friend, and by Gov. Andrews, of Massachusetts, and others to save Capt. Beall's life. "After the plans failed," Dr. Foote says, "Booth hurried to Washington and on his knees implored President Lincoln and Secretary Seward to pardon, or at least respite Beall. Lincoln promised to respite him, but that night ordered his execution. The order was executed, and Beall was hanged within thirty yards of my window and inside Fort Columbus. Booth, for what he termed the perfidy of President Lincoln toward himself and Capt. Beall, at once swore to avenge his friend's death by

killing both Lincoln and Seward. He did not intend shooting Lincoln in the theater, but the contemplated opportunity did not offer itself elsewhere."

The change in Lincoln's purpose to spare the life of Beall, it is further claimed in the document referred to, was brought about by Mr. Seward, who made such representations to his chief as to the effect of his leniency on the popular mind as to induce him to order the execution before further efforts could be made to prevent it. The effect of the killing of his friend, under these circumstances, was to drive Booth to desperation, and he determined upon a deadly measure of revenge, which, it is worth noting, included Mr. Seward with Lincoln as its especial objects. No other adequate explanation has ever been offered for the attempt on Mr. Seward's life at the same time with the assassination of the President.

## ROBERT E. LEE.

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“To be nameless in worthy deeds exceeds an infamous history,” observes an early writer.

But to have achieved an honorable fame in worthy deeds might well satisfy any mortal. After a noble and active life Robert E. Lee could have boasted this, as those who are acquainted with his career can do for him. His is one name in American history that is spoken of reverently. Even Washington gave way now and then to bursts of passion, and was known to be so strict in his business dealings as to be considered parsimonious. But who points to any public or private act of the Confederate leader to criticise? Will his blamelessness militate against his reputation after a while? “Who knows whether the best of men be known, or whether there be not more remarkable persons forgotten than any that stand remembered in the known account of time?” is a question that signifies the ease with which

oblivion shrouds names. Some day future generations may wonder if such a splendid life could have really been lived, and if it has not been touched too tenderly by the historians. The great Georgia orator, Ben Hill, says of Lee: "He was Cæsar without his ambition, Frederick without his tyranny, Napoleon without his selfishness, and Washington without his reward." And the historian and essayist, William P. Trent, pays him this tribute: "The present writer . . . would be false to himself and his hero did he not claim for the latter a place among the greatest and finest spirits that have trod this earth. With the supreme men of action, the small group of statesmen-conquerors, which includes Cæsar, Alexander, Charlemagne, Cromwell, Frederick, Napoleon, and Washington, and perhaps one or two more, he cannot be ranked, because he never ruled a realm or a republic, and actually shrank in 1862 from assuming the responsibilities of commander in chief. We know, indeed, from his own words that he would not have wished to resemble any of these men save Washington, and we know also that he could not have entered their class without losing the exquisite modesty and unselfishness that gave him his unique charm. But do we, his lovers, wish to put Lee in any class? Should we not prefer

him to stand alone? If we do, we have our wish, for no one class contains him. There is seemingly no character in all history that combines power and virtue and charm as he does. He is with the great captains, the supreme leaders of all time. He is with the good, pure men and chivalrous gentlemen of all time—the knights *sans peur et sans reproche*. And he is not only in these two noble classes of chosen spirits, but he is in each case either a plain leader or else without any obvious superior. But where can another such man be found? Of whom besides Lee may it be justly said that he is with Belisarius and Turenne and Marlborough and Moltke on the one hand, and on the other with Callicrotidas and Saint Louis, with the Chevalier Bayard and Sir Philip Sidney?"

Whatever the future may believe, those who live near to the date of his greatness know that these eulogies, these estimates, are not merely oratory and fine writing, but truth.

Robert E. Lee was born in Virginia in 1807, and was graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1829, ranking second in a class of forty-six. At the beginning of the Mexican war he was assigned as chief engineer of the army under Gen. Wool, with the rank of captain. His abilities and conduct won the respect of Gen. Winfield Scott in this war, and that

general's confidence in him never faltered, for as late as 1861 he declared that, if given an opportunity, the Virginian would prove himself the greatest captain of history. He was thrice brevetted during the contest with Mexico.

He was appointed lieutenant colonel in 1855, and in 1859 was ordered to Washington and placed in command of the force sent to capture John Brown at Harper's Ferry.

When Virginia, on April 20, 1861, adopted an ordinance of secession, Lee resigned his commission in the United States army. He did not think secession the proper remedy for Southern grievances, but, writing to his sister about that time, he said: "With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty as an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army, and, save in defense of my native State—with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed—I hope I may never be called upon to draw my sword."

During the early months his services were not conspicuous, but in the autumn of 1861 he was sent to South Carolina and planned the defensive lines that proved successful till about the end of the war. This led to his promotion, and

caused him to be charged, under the direction of the President, with the conduct of military operations in the armies of the Confederacy. It was soon seen that the appointment was wise.

During the seven days' battles around Richmond his capacity as manager and strategist came prominently into display. One of his methods had been an offensive defense, and he resolved on it in this series of contests. With an overwhelming force the Union general, McClellan, thought of attacking Richmond. Instead of awaiting the attack, Lee determined to protect Richmond by dislodging the enemy. The result of the seven days' battles was a complete victory for Lee. The siege of Richmond was raised, McClellan's splendid army was driven back, and President Lincoln issued a call for three hundred thousand more men. The Union force was one hundred and five thousand soldiers; that of Lee, eighty thousand. Following this victory, Lee resolved to put Washington in danger, believing that McClellan would be recalled from the South. He succeeded. As Fiske admits, "from standing on the defensive, and hard pressed in front of their own capital, the Confederates had been able to march into their enemy's country, overthrowing an army on their way, and to put the national capital on its defense."

From this movement on till the close of the war Lee was the reliance of the Southern people, "the supreme object of their devotion."

It would be impossible in this paper to give in detail the battles which proved the military prowess of the eminent Southern commander. Particular mention is made of the seven days' battles and the demonstration against Washington—resulting in reversing the moral situation—to show his ability as a soldier and the incipency of the whole South's affection and confidence. In the great battles which followed, his directions were the part of wisdom, but were not always followed. If they had been, the result of the contest would probably have been different. From the time he took command at Richmond on through the sanguinary battles of the second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Cold Harbor, his splendid military genius was apparent. He did all that any commander could have done with the available resources.

In the last year of the war there was a general desire in the South to take the control of the armies from President Davis. Lee was commander in chief under the President's directions, and the people wanted him commander in chief without direction of Mr. Davis. The bill

creating the office was passed and approved by the Executive, and on February 5, 1865, a general order from the adjutant general's office directed Gen. Lee to enter upon his new duties.

But it was too late. If this had been done sooner, it would have availed much. The South was already defeated.

His methods in war were: To make an offensive defense, as stated. He believed that in planning, all dangers should be seen; in execution, none, unless very formidable. Having the intuition to see the purpose of the foe, he had the power of rapid combination to oppose prompt resistance. In strategy he was equal to the world's greatest warriors.

Perhaps his chief error was in giving too much discretion to his lieutenants on critical occasions.

Notwithstanding all far-fetched criticisms, however, the assertion of a living Northern historian remains true, that he was the ablest general developed by the civil war. Not less worthy of mention in connection with his military qualities is the assertion of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, who knew him so well, that he was as devout a Christian soldier as Sir Henry Havelock.

More than a third of a century has passed since Lee proved his right to rank with the greatest and since his surrender to overwhelming numbers at Appomattox. The passions en-

gendered then have in a measure died away, and it is a credit to American love of worth and appreciation of true greatness that all sections of the Union seem ready to proudly boast that the valor and ability of Lee and his generals belong to the history of America more than to a section.

## THOMAS J. (STONEWALL) JACKSON.

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ROBERT E. LEE and Thomas J. Jackson are classed as the greatest generals of the American civil war by a large number of military critics. Considering this fact, it is of interest to note how they stood in the military training school. Lee was second in a class of

forty-six, while it is said of Jackson that he never reached a high grade. The circumstances seem to show that as colleges, for all their advantages, do not make geniuses, the commander is to some extent born. Forrest is another instance of this kind.

Jackson displayed gallantry in the Mexican war like Lee, having been twice breveted for good conduct at Churubusco and Chapultepec. He remained in the United States army from 1846 to 1851, when he accepted the chair of Philosophy and Artillery Tactics in the Virginia Military Institute. It is said that as a teacher

his success was not great, though he was distinguished for faithfulness in the performance of his duties. He was also noted for his earnestness in religious matters.

By the way, speaking of his religious earnestness recalls the fact that this distinguished Washington and Lee. They were three great Christian warriors. Without a desire to detract from the character of the chieftains of any other section, attention must be called to the fact that this trait has not been a characteristic of any of the great opponents of the Southerners in the civil war. As the Christian is proud to number Gladstone, the most distinguished citizen of the world at one time, among those who professed a simple faith, so it is a pleasure to contemplate the piety of our greatest warriors; for, as Washington suggested in his farewell address, religion and morality are the pillars of human happiness.

A short time after the secession of Virginia, Jackson took command of the Confederate troops collected at Harper's Ferry. Later he was relieved by Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, and then became commander of a brigade in the army of that general.

In the battle of Bull Run the Confederate line had been turned, the troops holding it being driven back for some distance. It seemed

for a while that disaster was certain, though Johnston was hurrying up troops to support our left. Jackson's brigade was the first to get into position. It checked the enemy, and the faltering troops rallied. In this crisis Gen. Bernard E. Bee, in appealing to his men, cried: "See, there is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Rally on the Virginians!" This gave Jackson a new name, and his stand aided materially in giving the South that great victory. He was made major general for his conduct on this occasion.

One of his greatest campaigns was that known as the Valley campaign, which was designed to prevent the Federals from reënforcing the army which threatened Richmond. This was the offensive-defensive idea of Lee, but the carrying out of the plan was left to Jackson. In a recent excellent work on the civil war by an Englishman, Col. G. F. R. Henderson, the part of Jackson in this campaign is conspicuously set forth. "The swift maneuvers which surprised in succession his [Jackson's] various enemies emanated from himself alone," says this writer. "It was his brain that conceived the march by Mechum's Station to McDowell, the march that surprised Fremont and bewildered Banks. It was his brain that conceived the rapid transfer of the Valley army from one side of the Massa-

nuttons to the other, the march that surprised Kelly and drove Banks in panic to the Potomac. It was his brain that conceived the double victory of Cross Keys and Port Republic; and if Lee's strategy was brilliant, that displayed by Jackson in the minor theater of war was no less masterly. The instructions he received at the end of April, before he moved against Milroy, were simply to the effect that a successful blow at Banks might have the happiest results. But such a blow was not easy. Banks was strongly posted and numerically superior to Jackson, while Fremont in equal strength was threatening Staunton. Taking instant advantage of the separation of the hostile columns, Jackson struck at Milroy, and, having checked Fremont, returned to the Valley to find Banks retreating. At that moment he received orders from Lee to threaten Washington. Without an instant's hesitation he marched northward. By May 23, had the Federals received warning of his advance, they might have concentrated fifty thousand men at Strasburg and Front Royal; or, while Banks was reënforced, McDowell might have moved on to Gordonsville, cutting Jackson's line of retreat on Richmond. But Jackson took as little account of numbers as did Cromwell. Concealing his march with his usual skill, he dashed with his

sixteen thousand men into the midst of his enemies. Driving Banks before him, and well aware that Fremont and McDowell were converging in his rear, he advanced boldly on Harper's Ferry, routed Saxton's outposts, and remained for two days on the Potomac, with sixty two thousand Federals within a few days' march. Then, retreating rapidly up the Valley, beneath the southern peaks of the Massanuttons, he turned fiercely at bay; and the pursuing columns, numbering nearly twice his own, were thrust back with heavy loss at the very moment when they were combining to crush him. A week later, and he had vanished, and when he appeared on the Chickahominy, Banks, Fremont, and McDowell were still guarding the roads to Washington, and McClellan was waiting for McDowell. One hundred and seventy-five thousand men absolutely paralyzed by sixteen thousand! Only Napoleon's campaign of 1814 affords a parallel to this extraordinary spectacle."

On June 27, 1862, after uniting with Gen. Lee, he turned the scale of battle at Gaines's Mills, where Fitz-John Porter was overthrown, and took part in the operations following Gen. McClellan's retreat from around Richmond. He forced Gen. Pope to let go the Rappahannock, and kept him at bay until the arrival of

Lee's forces, when the Union general was defeated in the second battle of Bull Run. In the Maryland campaign, two weeks later, he brought about the capture of Harper's Ferry, with thirteen hundred prisoners and seventy cannon. It all reflected credit on his great fitness as a commander.

It was a matter of course, after these brilliant exploits, that promotion should follow. He was made lieutenant general, and with this rank took part in the battle of Fredericksburg. His last movements were made in May, 1863. On the 1st of that month he drove Hooker into the wilderness around Chancellorsville. He then attempted a flank movement on the Federal army under Lee's order. After reaching Howard's Corps, which held the right of Hooker's army, he routed the corps in thirty minutes, and was pressing the troops sent to its assistance back toward Chancellorsville when he was checked by a powerful artillery fire. That night, between eight and nine o'clock, with a small party he rode beyond his lines to reconnoiter. On his return he and his party were mistaken for Federal cavalry and fired upon by Lane's Confederate Brigade. Jackson was wounded in three places, and, pneumonia setting up, he died in a few days. His death was a greater loss to the cause

for which he struggled than would have been thousands of the common soldiery. He had won the veneration of the army, the love of the Southern people, and the dread of the enemy, McClellan at one time having telegraphed: "I do not like Jackson's movements. He will suddenly appear when least expected."

The tribute of Col. Henderson, the writer above quoted, is deserved. Says he: "Self-sacrifice and the single heart are the attributes the Anglo-Saxon race most delights to honor; and chief among its accepted heroes are those soldier-saints who, sealing their devotion with their lives, have won

Death's royal purple in the foeman's lines.

So from his narrow grave on the green hillside at Lexington Jackson speaks with voice more powerful than if, passing peacefully away in the fullness of years and honors, he had found a resting place in some proud sepulcher erected by a victorious and grateful commonwealth. His creed may not be ours; but in whom shall we find a firmer faith, a mind more humble, a sincerity more absolute? He had his temptations, like the rest of us. His passions were strong; his temper was hot; forgiveness never came easily to him; and he loved power. . . . And if in his nature there were great capacities

for good, there were none the less, had it been perverted, great capacities for evil. Fearless and strong, self-dependent and ambitious, he had within him the making of a Napoleon, yet his name is without spot or blemish. From his boyhood onward until he died on the Rapahannock, he was the very model of a Christian gentleman:

E'n as he trod that day to God, so walked he from his birth,  
In simpleness, and gentleness, and honor, and clean mirth.

## ENOCH M. MARVIN.

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Few ministers of any Church have risen to the highest position who were embarrassed with such untoward circumstances as Bishop E. M. Marvin was surrounded by. His career, his struggles against adversity, his trust in a directing Providence, and his final signal triumph are not only to the glory of the Creator, but a legacy of instruction to future generations.



He was a descendant of the celebrated Cotton Mather, of New England, of whose erudition it is averred that there was scarcely any book in existence with which he was not acquainted, and whose literary fame reached across the ocean and secured him honorary membership in the literary societies of the Old World. He was born of poor parents in Missouri, June 12, 1823. He early showed an aptitude for learning, and was an unusually bright boy. Like Cotton

Mather, his memory was wonderful. It is related as an instance of his power of memory that when quite a small boy he attended church where a minister known as Uncle Billy McConnell preached, and on returning home his mother requested him to relate to her all that he could recall of the sermon. It was customary in those days in his section for a preacher to stand behind a chair to preach, and he took the same position on the occasion mentioned and announced the text, then proceeded to repeat the sermon from memory, much to the astonishment of the family. When he had finished the sermon he said, "Let us pray;" but his mother interposed by saying, "That will do, Mather," not wishing anything smacking of mockery in prayer.

He taught school when young, years before he reached his majority. Though reared under Baptist influences, he joined the Methodist Church, and was admitted on trial in the Missouri Conference in the autumn of 1841. "He was not present, fortunately," says a biographer. "Some preachers would have voted on the cut of his clothes and the un-cut of his hair. The presiding elder, who presented the application, was not prepossessed, and, withal, was a phlegmatic man. The history of the application was *pro forma*. He had no friend at court." It is sufficient to say of his first years

as a preacher that he agreeably disappointed those who had little faith in his usefulness, and that his progress was rapid.

When the war came up Marvin's sympathies were with the South. Southern sympathizers were threatened if they did not take the oath of allegiance to the authority of the United States, but he determined not to take the oath. The thought of being forced to take it was sufficient to induce him, among other reasons, to pass through the Federal lines in 1862 and go farther South. Arriving there, he felt called to preach to the Southern army, though he had no connection with it by military appointment. He remained in this capacity three years, receiving his support from the voluntary contributions of friends. He was not joined by his family until the spring of 1865, when his wife was permitted to pass through the lines by President Lincoln.

For some months after the surrender, and during the reconstruction era, Marvin and his family remained in an almost impoverished condition, although he was one of the best preachers of his day. He was often under fear of being arrested by the military authorities hectoring the South, too. Two incidents are related of this time. On one occasion he saw a file of Union soldiers coming into his

yard, and supposed that they were going to arrest him on some trumped-up charge. He was surprised that they were detailed to invite him to preach. This led to a friendly acquaintance with certain officers, and he afterwards facetiously remarked to them, "not to press reconstruction too fast, but allow the Southern people a little time to sulk!" Again, when pressed to accept the editorship of a paper, the salary from which would relieve his family, he said: "As long as God gives me and mine coarse clothes and corn bread, I'll preach the gospel."

In 1866 it was considered advisable to add to the number of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the number of additional was fixed at four. It seemed to be conceded that a man west of the Mississippi should be one of the new bishops, and Enoch M. Marvin was elected without his solicitation. He had been roughing it in Texas, and one day after he supposed that the election of bishops was over at the New Orleans session of Conference, he arrived in the Crescent City. Rev. Dr. Deems, who was the first to meet him, gave an account of his interview with Marvin in *Leslie's Sunday Magazine*. Meeting Marvin, he said: "Why, *Bishop Marvin*, where are you from?"

Marvin looked surprised and displeased.

"Did you get the telegram?" asked Dr. Deems. "You were elected bishop yesterday."

Marvin was deeply agitated, but in the general conversation revived.

He was the first man in his Church who had been elected to the episcopacy with a full suit of beard, and that evening it was suggested that the beard was an offense to some of the brethren, but Marvin said they would have to stand it, as they had elected him in his beard.

"Yes," it was facetiously insisted, "but remember that you were not present when you were elected. I doubt whether they could have been persuaded to elect you if they had seen what a homely man you are, shaved or bearded."

When elected Bishop Marvin was forty-three years of age, and was the youngest member of the college.

In 1876 he began a missionary tour around the world. On his return he seemed even more eminently fitted for usefulness, but he died in November, 1877, in his prime, and when, as Bishop McTyeire says, "never so useful, so widely known, or so much beloved."

Bishop Marvin was a student of books, the range of his studies being marvelous. He prepared his sermons carefully, though he wrote none save those that were prepared for the press. Personally he was modest and retiring.

He was a model in the purity of his character, the steadfastness of his devotion to his race, and in his unselfishness. His desire through his short but glorious life seemed truly to be to "allure to brighter worlds, and lead the way."

He published a volume of sermons and a book of his travels in the East.

## WILLIAM E. MUNSEY.

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THERE has hardly been a time, perhaps, when there were not what the stump speakers call "calamity howlers." Since Homer there have always been men to take the pessimistic view of Mc-res, who in 1598 in *The Wit's Treasury*, while complimenting the poet Drayton, spoke of "these declining and corrupt times, when there is nothing but roguery in villainous man." Smollet in 1770 made one of his characters refer to "these times of dullness and degeneracy." There are no great poets and painters; there are no superb actors since Booth and Barrett passed away! All these assertions are but echoes of criticisms made when Shakespeare lived and Hume wrote and Garrick and Forrest acted their rôles. Oratory even is said to be declining, while the public has reached a time when eloquence cannot move it, according to the chronic complainers.

But the fact is, there will hardly come a period when oratory will not be potent in swaying men, or when it will fail to be attractive. The galleries of the legislative halls are not packed when the dry, hard, and insignificant speaker has the floor; facts and figures are necessary in their place, but a volume of statistics is not as pleasant to read as the eloquent lines of Byron's "Childe Harold," or Montaigne's sentences—which some one said would bleed if they were cut. The eloquent minister seldom has to preach to empty pews. Eloquence is potent, for it is born of earnestness and deep conviction, and a fire that heats those in proximity.

William E. Munsey attained celebrity as a pulpit orator of great power—won the admiration of the public, the young should know, against drawbacks greater than those with which Demosthenes had to contend. He was born of poor parents; he had but a few months' training in the schoolroom; and, as hinted, he had to struggle with many disadvantages in person, manner, and voice. His body was long and gaunt; his face was sallow and bloodless, his head small, round, and thinly covered with a whitish hair; his voice was without a trace of oratorical power; his gestures were seldom helpful, being usually made with the right hand, the fingers closed as if holding a pen. But compar-

ing his pictured face with that of Edgar A. Poe, cannot there be seen similarity of features, indicating the same imaginative power, a half-perceptible gleam of the soul through the eyes?

It is believed by some that our best orators have been born amid the lofty grandeur of the mountains. Dr. Munsey was born in the mountains of Virginia in the year 1833. He was used to heavy farm work, and after a hard day's toil often carried wood on his back nearly a mile to make the evening fire. But during his early struggles he was possessed of a desire for knowledge, and he read with greedy avidity every book that fell into his hands. It is related that, when plowing, he would place his book at the end of the furrow, and when he came to it would pause and read a few moments and then resume plowing, fixing the thoughts in his mind. He was proving that where there's a will there's a way.

So he studied and absorbed, until at an early age his brain was a storehouse of knowledge. When he became a member of the Holston Conference in his young manhood, he at once attracted attention, and after the civil war, joining the Baltimore Conference, his fame spread far and wide as preacher and lecturer. The *Richmond Christian Advocate*, commenting on the delivery at that time of his lecture on man,

says: "He spoke as if he had been a professor in every branch of science for a lifetime. He soared amid clouds and lightning and thunder and tempests; he was as familiar with anatomy as if he were a Sir Charles Bell; with mental phenomena as if he had been a John Locke; with mythology as if he had been born a Greek and had lived in Greece a thousand years. After getting into his theme he rushed on with the speed of an Arabian courser, scarcely pausing to take breath to the last sentence of his gorgeous peroration."

He was a poet and philosopher, an orator and a logician combined. One has only to read his sermons to perceive this. While his eloquence charmed, his learning attracted as much. His sermons are filled with such expressions as these: "The Church has withstood the mutations of fortune, the desolating tread of ages and the disintegration and downfall of dynasties, the ravages of famine and the wasting scourge of the pestilence. It outlived the flood, the confusion of languages, the brick-yards of Goshen; it outlived the temple, outlived the Jews, outlived the astrological lore of the Chaldeans, the mythology of Greece and Rome. It will extend its triumphs . . . till all the governments be swallowed up and lost in an all-absorbing, overshadowing, and universal

theocracy, till the Hindoo with his Shaster and Veda, the Parsee with his Zend-Avesta, the Buddhist with his Bedagat, the Jewish rabbin with his Talmud, the Mohammedan with his Koran shall all come trooping up and pile the volumes of their faith in one grand pyre at its threshold. Angels will kindle it, and the curling flames, wreathing away into heaven, will announce to the universe the completion of its victories and the perfection of its glories."

Tennyson, in "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," sings of the resurrection:

Truth for truth, and good for good! The good, the true, the pure, the just;  
Take the charm "forever" from them, and they crumble into dust.

Not less beautiful is Munsey's prose: "Tell the bereaved (fathers, mothers, widows, children) that there will be no resurrection, and a universal shriek will rend the air and crack the vault of heaven till God hears and feels and angels weep. Earth will put on weeds of mourning, and, like Rachel of old, go down to the judgment weeping for her children."

One more quotation—a description of the state of a lost soul: "Immortal soul! lost in boundless, bottomless, infinite darkness, fly on. Thou shalt never find company till the ghost of eternity will greet thee over the grave of God,

and thou shalt never find rest till thou art able to fold thy wings on the gravestone of thy Maker.”

There are various instruments in the hands of God to convert men. Of the acts among obscure ways to strengthen the fallen, the kind words to cheer the burdened soul, it has been praisefully said that

These be the noblest deeds of all, and these the sweetest songs;

but there has been need for the eloquent pictures of eternal rest, the terrible portrayal of the punishment that awaits the transgressor, and there is no doubt that Dr. Munsey was instrumental in turning men's feet into the narrow way and in bringing moments of comfort to the heart of the world. He died in 1877.

## ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

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DURING and for years after the civil war one of the best-known names in the South was that of Alexander H. Stephens. He was born in Georgia in 1812, and through life appeared a bundle of contradictions, though, paradoxical as it may appear, he acted

always from principle, and not through a vacillating disposition. One of the earliest acts proving his honor and independence was the paying back of the money a wealthy gentleman expended as a matter of charity on his education.

After reading law only two months he was admitted to the bar, and was congratulated by Senator William H. Crawford and Judge Lumpkin on the best examination they had ever heard. He lived on \$6 a month and saved \$400 by his practice the first year. His reputation as an advocate was made within a few years; from his income he repurchased his father's old

farm, and bought the estate known as Liberty Hall. He never married, owing to a disappointment in love encountered by him during his young manhood.

While he believed firmly in State rights, he strove against the doctrine of nullification. On account of his opposition to the doctrine that was still popular notwithstanding Calhoun's failure as its champion and Jackson's threat to coerce South Carolina, he met with bitter opposition in his canvass in 1836 for the office of Representative to the Georgia Legislature, but was elected. He proved his ability in his first speech by securing the passage of the appropriation for the first railway from Atlanta to Chattanooga, which was the property of Georgia. Another measure which succeeded through his advocacy at the session was the securing of a charter for the Macon Female College, the first in the world for the regular graduation of young women in classics and the sciences.

He had been noted from childhood for his courage, notwithstanding his delicate constitution—"the courage that comes not from principle or duty," says Henry W. Cleveland, "but from utter indifference to consequences." In 1848 he had a difficulty on the piazza of an Atlanta hotel with Judge Cone. It grew out of a political controversy. Cone stabbed and cut Stephens

fearfully with a knife, and cried: "Now retract, or I'll cut your throat!" Stephens, bleeding and almost dying, replied, "Never! cut!" and grasped the descending knife blade in his hand. He recovered in time to make a speech in favor of Zachary Taylor for President, his carriage being drawn to the stand by his admirers.

He was always opposed to secession. He was in 1850 one of the authors of the "Georgia platform," the first resolve of which was, "That we hold the American Union secondary in importance only to the rights and principles it was designed to perpetuate." In 1860 he made speeches against withdrawing from the Union, though when his State withdrew he considered it his duty to follow.

He was instrumental in killing the Whig party, of which he had long been a member. On the nominations of Franklin Pierce and Gen. Scott at Baltimore members of the Whig party became dissatisfied over the position of the candidates on a compromise or settlement on the slavery question. Meredith P. Gentry (the great Tennessee orator), Robert Toombs, Stephens, and a few others published a card July 3, 1852, giving their reasons for not supporting Scott, who did not approve of the settlement. Stephens wrote the card, and it killed the Whig

party. Daniel Webster was nominated without a party. He died before the election, but Stephens and Toombs voted for him anyhow.

In 1859 Stephens retired from the United States Congress, and in a farewell speech in one of the Southern cities intimated that the African slave trade might have to be reopened. He also said after resigning: "I saw there was bound to be a smash-up on the road, and resolved to jump off at the first station"—having reference, of course, to the coming conflict between the North and South.

In 1861, when the attempt at secession was made, he became Vice President of the Southern Confederacy, and was as loyal as Hon. Jefferson Davis to the Confederacy. In 1865 he was at the head of the Peace Commission on the part of the lost cause in the Hampton Roads conference, and in 1866 made a powerful reconstruction speech and plea for the negroes.

A good story is told to show that Stephens was not averse to a little humor now and then. Thaddeus Stevens, the great Northern radical, and Stephens met at Appomattox once and talked about the war.

"Well, Stephens," said the Northerner, "how do you Rebels feel after being licked by the Yankees?"

"We feel, I suppose, a good deal as Laza-

rus did," replied the ex-Vice President of the Confederacy.

"How is that?"

"Why, Thad, poor Lazarus was licked by the dogs, was he not?"

After the war Stephens was elected to the United States Senate, but was not permitted to take his seat. He was elected then to the Lower House of Congress in 1874, and continuously elected for eight years thereto, until his resignation in 1882.

Stephens devoted much of his time after the close of hostilities to writing histories. His first effort was "The War between the States," in two volumes. This was followed by a "School History of the United States," which is very impartial and valuable for the young readers of the South, doing justice to the heroic people of his section. Still later he published a "History of the United States," which proved a failure financially.

In 1882 he was elected Governor of Georgia, and made one of the best executives that State has ever had.

## PAUL H. HAYNE.

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A NUMBER of poets of more than ordinary merit drew attention to the South in the seventies and eighties, not to mention those at the foot of Parnassus like Frank O. Tichnor, whose lyrics, "Little Giffin" and "The Virginians," are among the prettiest in American literature. Margaret J. Preston, Abram J. Ryan, and Paul H. Hayne have done work that will keep them in the public mind for years. The last-named has left a greater quantity of work as a comment on his industry than the others, and he is entitled to rank higher as a poet for fertility and finish.

Paul H. Hayne came of revolutionary stock—from patriots who gave their blood for the liberties of the colonies. His uncle, Robert Y. Hayne, was a statesman and orator, who matched his strength with Webster, and the discussion they had in the Senate may be classed among the ablest which touched upon the questions of the Constitution and the Union. Robert was, in

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addition to his service in the United States Senate, at one time Governor of South Carolina.

As soon as Paul graduated he connected himself with the journalism of Charleston, S. C. His first volume of poems was published by Ticknor & Co., of Boston, in 1855, and since that time, up to his death, in 1888, he had four or five other volumes issued.

The war ruined him financially, and he determined to leave Charleston, exile himself in the pine barrens of Georgia, and devote himself entirely to poetry. His wife was the daughter of an eminent French physician, who received a gold medal from Napoleon III. for services under the first Napoleon at the battle of Leipsic. Beautiful, cultured, and proud, but with steadfast devotion, she took up the new life, and was such an inspiration to her husband as were the wives of Owen Meredith and Tennyson to those poets. They had only one child, William H. Hayne, who since his parents' death has resided in Augusta, and is himself a poet of promise, one whose Aldrichlike fancies are frequently seen in the leading periodicals of the North.

Hayne's new home was a very poor cottage; but, surrounded by love and feeling that he was dependent on no one, the years were not unhappy. He is perhaps the first and only American who has devoted himself exclusively to poetry

for a living. While he might have excelled as a prosist (his memoir of Timrod proves this), he did not indulge much in what may be called here diversified writing. During his later years he kept up a correspondence with the greatest living poets of England and his own country.

His long poems, such as "The Wife of Brittany," have been justly admired, though they are somewhat lacking in warmth. Of his sonnets Maurice Thompson, the well-known poet and critic, says: "I could pick out twenty of them the equal of almost any in the language." Perhaps he is best in his simpler and tenderer lyrics. The poets of the South have all proven especially successful in the writing of lyrics.

During the days of Hayne's prosperity, when he resided in Charleston, that city was perhaps the literary center of the South, and the reputation it received from the part its citizens took in letters shows the value of literature toward raising a section in the estimation of the public. Simms and Timrod, Legare and Hayne were the progressive literary spirits then.

When only twenty-three years of age Hayne was made editor of *Russell's Magazine*. This was a tribute to his genius, already making itself felt. When a mere child he read the old dramatists and the earlier poets. His study of the literature of the Elizabethan age was cease-

less, and he was as much saturated with its spirit as Austin Dobson with French literature of the eighteenth century. Mrs. Preston, in a sketch, says: "No Southern poet has ever written so much or done so much to give a literary impulse to his section; so that he well deserves the title that has been bestowed upon him by his English friends, as well as by his own people, the 'Laureate of the South.'"

Among his sonnets this, entitled "October," is much admired:

The passionate summer's dead! the sky's aglow  
With roseate flushes of matured desire;  
The winds at eve are musical and low  
As sweeping chords of a lamenting lyre  
Far up among the pillared clouds of fire,  
Whose pomp of strange procession upward rolls  
With gorgeous blazoning of pictured scrolls  
To celebrate the summer's past renown.  
Ah me! how regally the heavens look down,  
O'ershadowing beautiful autumnal woods  
And harvest fields with hoarded increase brown  
And deep-toned majesty of golden floods,  
That raise their solemn dirges to the sky,  
To swell the purple pomp that floateth by.

This is one of the prettiest of the tributes to the pioneer poet, William Cullen Bryant:

Lo, there he lies, our patriarch poet, dead!  
The solemn angel of eternal peace  
Has waved a wand of mystery o'er his head,  
Touched his strong heart, and bade his pulses cease.

Behold, in marble quietude he lies!

Pallid and cold, divorced from earthly breath,  
With tranquil brow, lax hands, and dreamless eyes;  
Yet the closed lips would seem to smile on death.

Well may they smile, for death to such as he

Brings purer freedom, loftier thought and aim,  
And in grand truce with immortality,  
Lifts to song's fadeless heaven his starlike fame.

Had Paul H. Hayne been a resident of the North, no doubt the generous lovers of literary excellence of that section would have given him the prominence he deserves. As a poet he should rank with Stedman in America and with William Morris in England. There is color, originality, a great wealth of imagery, and finish in his creations, but he was somewhat lacking in passion. A complete illustrated edition of his poems was published in 1882 by a Boston firm. Some of his best lines were written after its appearance, and are uncollected.

## HENRY TIMROD.

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Blessings be with them, and eternal praise,  
Who gave us nobler lives and nobler cares—  
The poets who on earth have made us heirs  
Of truth and pure delight by heavenly lays.

—*Wordsworth.*



If any Northern singer deserving the title of poet has been allowed to pass his days in wretched poverty, disease, and neglect, without his people giving him their patronage nobly and generously, the fact has not been put on record. The Southern

poets Poe, Timrod, Lanier, and Hayne found life anything but a round of enjoyment; it was more nearly "a cry between the silences." They were gifted. If life had been made less burdensome, who can imagine what they might have achieved?

At a social gathering in Boston, in September, 1880, Longfellow, alluding to Charleston, S. C., said: "To have been the birthplace of Henry Timrod is a distinct honor. The day will surely

come when his poems will have a place in every cultivated home in the United States."

The *Century Magazine* in 1898, reviewing his poetry, declared: "Now that the people of the South are raising a memorial to Timrod's fame, the suggestion seems a proper one to make that the American people share in the honor, for he was a true American poet, and worthy to stand in the narrow space that belongs to the best."

Henry Timrod was educated for the bar; but, being timid, he soon discovered that he would probably never become a successful advocate. He had predilections for literature, too, and this led him from a profession not to his liking. His first volume of poems appeared in 1860, and the fact that the excitement between the North and South was on accounts for the limited notice it received, for it was a creditable first volume.

The poet very naturally sympathized with the South in the war, and some of his best poems were written between 1861 and 1865. Among these are "Ethnogenesis" and "Carolina." They were so well received by his people that they thought of bringing out in England an illustrated edition of his poems. The scheme, however, fell through, to Timrod's great disappointment.

Awhile before the war he became associate editor and part owner of a daily newspaper at

Columbia, S. C., which promised a moderate support, and he married. Then Columbia was given up to Sherman's troops, and of course his property was destroyed. His life from then on was wretched. There was no means of employment open to him; his child had died, and his constitution, always frail, was broken down. In a letter to a friend in 1866 he wrote: "You ask me to tell you the story of the last year. I can embody it all in a few words: beggary, starvation, death, bitter grief, utter want of hope."

At length death came to him. Perhaps it was more a welcome than a farewell. A Charleston gentleman has described the funeral as follows: "As had been the man's death, sad and dreary, so was his funeral. A rude coffin, a few wreaths of wild flowers (the gloomy remnants of a bright summer), a very limited cortége of mourners, a brief and hurried service at the grave, and all was over. Perhaps the only difference between his interment and that of other colleagues of a like fortune was his burial in the cemetery of Trinity Episcopal Church, instead of potter's field."

Timrod's death occurred in 1867, at the early age of thirty-eight. Man's inhumanity to man makes anarchists. He was an exception. There is nothing pessimistic in his poems, but they are sweet and helpful; and he builded better than

he knew. Since his death his fame has been steadily broadening, certainly a good omen. When the second volume of his poems appeared, with a memoir by Paul H. Hayne, in 1873, it went through three editions, and would have continued selling but for the failure of the publishing house which had brought out the volume. A splendid memorial edition of his complete works was issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. in 1899, and is meeting with a flattering sale. The critics have given it a most cordial reception.

## AUGUSTA EVANS WILSON.

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A FEW years before the civil war there sprang up some writers in the South who were as popular with the million and as much appreciated by enterprising publishers as those of any other section of the United States.

Among these were Elizabeth A. Dupuy, who published fifteen or twenty novels; William Henry Peck, who was the most voluminous author in the South, except William Gilmore Simms, and the best paid; and Augusta Evans, afterwards Mrs. Wilson, whose popularity was still very great for a quarter of a century after the war.

While this last-mentioned novelist's first effort was not a success, the appearance of "Beulah" in 1859 made her at once famous. Within a few months it went into ten or fifteen editions. Everybody read it, and those who had not read it were considered behind the time. Its author in

her prime was styled the Charlotte Brontë of America.

"Beulah" was followed by "Macaria," "St. Elmo," "Infelice," and, lastly, by "At the Mercy of Tiberius." She has written nothing since, and seems content to rest her fame on the works mentioned.

There is so much fluctuation in literary taste, and critics are at so much variance, that it is hard to predict the ultimate place in literature of any writer. Dickens's popularity was instant and widespread, and the cultivated and uncultivated admired him. The critics to-day say that he was slovenly in style, that his pathos repels and his humor excites ridicule, and that he is passing out of our consideration as an artistic story-teller. Byron was the most popular poet of his generation; then he fell into neglect; and now there is a "Byron revival," which will restore him to his former place in our affections, as he deserves. After the success of "Beulah" Mrs. Wilson was, it is stated, paid fifteen thousand dollars for a novel as soon as completed. The appearance of a work from her pen was looked forward to by Americans with as much interest as they now manifest over the announcement of a new publication by Sarah Grand, Mrs. Ward, "John Oliver Hobbs," Thomas Hardy, Hall Caine, or George W. Cable. Her romances

were found in every home, and are still widely read. And yet the critics have no good words to utter relative to her ability as an artist; the most ambitious collections of literature do not contain anything from her writings.

Whether or not she has exerted any influence in American literature may be a question; but there is no question about her having been for a while as much the rage as the authors who are praised to-day. Recalling the treatment received by Byron and Dickens, her admirers can lay the "flattering unction" to their souls that the public may also return and pay homage to her efforts, while present-time idols may not feel too sure of permanent popularity.

Mrs. Wilson was born near Columbus, Ga., but for several years has resided near Mobile.

## ANDREW JOHNSON.

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SELF-MADE made men are generally well made for wear. Take him all in all, Andrew Johnson was not an exception to the rule. And of the various Presidents, he was perhaps more justly entitled to being called the "great commoner."

He was of the common people, and the recollection of the fact never left his mind during the days of his greatest triumphs.

Despite all the disadvantages of early life—the lack of training in the schoolroom, and the necessity for constant labor—he was elected to represent his district in Congress at the age of thirty-five, and was successively elected for ten years. During one of his later terms he made his speech in defense of the veto power, which was one of the forensic efforts of the first half of the century. He also worked unceasingly for the adoption of the homestead

law, and in other ways proved himself a statesman of more than average ability. In 1853 he announced himself a candidate for the governorship of Tennessee, and was elected. In his message he paid so much attention to the needs of the working people that he won the title of the "Mechanic Governor."

When the Know-nothing movement was on foot, he made speeches against it, the vehemence of which was remembered for years. "Show me a Know-nothing," he is quoted as saying, "and I will show you a monster upon whose neck the foot of every honest man should tread!" He strangled that party movement in Tennessee.

In his second canvass he was opposed by Meredith P. Gentry. Gentry was an orator also, but he was no match for Johnson, and was defeated, and the Whig party fell to pieces.

In 1857 Johnson was elected to the United States Senate. In this body he renewed his efforts in behalf of the homestead law, which, it may be said, should not be confounded with the law championed by Thomas H. Benton. His pronounced Unionism estranged him from the slaveholders, and indeed it may be said that he was naturally or by early prejudices never in sympathy with the wealthy class. But he was always an unswerving Democrat. Even when

nominated for Vice President on the Lincoln ticket, in his letter of acceptance he virtually disclaimed any departure from Democracy, but accepted on the duty of first helping to preserve the government.

His speeches in the Senate against secession embittered the South, but of course pleased the North. With his customary vigor of expression he said of the secessionists: "I would have them arrested and tried for treason, and, if convicted, they should suffer the penalty of the law at the hands of the executioner." Whereupon while returning to Tennessee he was attacked at Liberty, Va., by a mob, but kept them at bay with his pistol; at Lynchburg he was hooted and hissed, and was burned in effigy at other places.

When appointed military governor of his State, in 1862, he was autocratic in the extreme. He wanted the City Council at Nashville to take the oath of allegiance to the Union, and when they refused he removed them; and he ordered an assessment on the richer Southern sympathizers in behalf of the widows, wives, and children who were made poor, as he expressed it, by the "unholy and nefarious rebellion."

When President Lincoln was assassinated, Johnson, being Vice President, was sworn in as President by Chief Justice Chase. "Treason is

a crime, and must be punished," he said to a delegation of Illinois people, and it was thought in the South that he would be vindictive and not follow the humane policy toward the conquered States which it is supposed Lincoln was inclined to. In his general amnesty to the citizens of the South he excepted all participants in the rebellion whose taxable property was over twenty thousand dollars—undoubtedly an indication of his personal feeling.

But after a while he began to prove that it was not his intention to crush the South, and this made enemies among the leaders of Congress, which was strongly Republican, not to say bloody, in the intensity of feeling against the South. He opposed certain measures to place the negroes where they might rule the whites. He used the veto power unhesitatingly, but measures that were conceived in hate and political selfishness were passed over his veto. Almost a score of such bills became laws, and, besides passing them over the President's veto, Congress attempted to deprive him of his prerogatives. Finally, on February 24, 1868, the House passed a resolution for Johnson's impeachment.

William Blount, one of Tennessee's first Senators, had been impeached, and Aaron Burr had been tried for treason, but the impeachment of

Andrew Johnson was up to that time the greatest state trial ever witnessed in the United States. It began on March 5 and lasted till May 16. Thirty-five Senators were for conviction and nineteen for acquittal. The change of one vote would have carried conviction in a body which was so largely Republican and anti-Southern. But there was one Republican who refused to engage in this method of getting rid of a Chief Magistrate who had the courage to oppose that "reconstruction" propaganda which brought more trouble to the South than the battles of the war.

An English historian, commenting on this affair, says: "The very form of the indictment betrayed an abuse of the impeaching power. The President was accused of high misdemeanors in having disobeyed an act of Congress (of whose validity he was fully entitled to form his own opinion till it should be ascertained by the Supreme Court), and again in having expressed in a public speech his view of the constitutional status of the present maimed and imperfect Congress. To deny the President of the United States the privilege of free speech secured by the constitution to every citizen was monstrous. To call the acts in question 'misdemeanors' was absurd."

The South for some years felt bitter toward

Johnson, but he at last regained favor in his State, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1875. His early poverty and struggles and his persistency in overcoming obstacles recall the quatrain:

"To toil on in the darkness, and succeed—

    This is, men say, a miracle, and still

The way is plain in spite of night and need

    When lighted by the lambent light, the Will."

## SAMUEL L. CLEMENS (MARK TWAIN).

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THE person who is known to more people of different conditions than any other literary man in the world is Samuel L. Clemens, the humorist. He was born in the little Missouri town, Florida; attended village school; lived in a frontier community; worked as a journeyman printer; fought in the Confederate army, and learned the business of pilot—all before he became convinced that a literary life was the calling for which he was the best adapted.

After his short service in the Confederate army he went to Nevada and entered upon newspaper work. In journalism he did not seem to make an impression on the management of the papers on which he worked. As in the case of Kipling, he met with discouragement by editors and employers, who did not appreciate his merit until he won fame, and then they sought an

advertisement by announcing that he was once in their employ.

His first pen name, adopted when he began his duties on the *Virginia City* (Nev.) *Enterprise*, was "Josh." It is said that when he entered Virginia City he appeared in the garb of a miner, and was generally seedy-looking; also that in those days he had little capacity for making friends. In 1864 he went to San Francisco and acted as correspondent for the Nevada paper. In a series of articles he attacked the chief of police, and the envenomed communications created a considerable stir. He corresponded for other papers, and did all sorts of literary work whereby he could turn a cent. He was then employed by the *San Francisco Call*. That paper contained a reference in after years of his work as a reporter: "Without doing the gentleman any injustice," the *Call* said, "it can be safely stated that, although at the time a good general writer and correspondent, he made but an indifferent reporter. He played at itemizing. Considering his experience in the mountains, he had an inexplicable aversion to walking, and in putting his matter on paper he was, to use his own expression, 'slower than the wrath to come.' Many funny and characteristic incidents occurred during his stay on the *Call*. He only wanted to remain long enough, he said, when he engaged

to do work, to make 'a stake;' but on leaving, his purse was no heavier than when he came."

He was dismissed from the *Call* for inefficiency—a proceeding that paper doubtless afterwards regretted. It may be interesting to note the fact that many persons who in later years became famous have met with such inappreciation. James Whitcomb Riley was forced to leave an Indiana paper because he wrote a poem and through mischief credited it to Poe, the waif being widely copied as a hitherto unpublished lyric by the author of "The Raven." He then went on the *Indianapolis Journal*, and made it the most widely known newspaper in Indiana by his dialect poems. Richard Harding Davis, a young novelist whose name is known in Europe and America now, and who has been earning a princely salary as a war correspondent, was unable to please his superior on the first paper to which he was attached. "Artemus Ward," the most famous of American humorists in his day, could not please the managing editor of a journal in Tiffin, Ohio, though getting a salary of only four dollars per week. Going to England subsequently, scholars, wits, poets, and novelists were drawn to him. Charles Read became his warm friend. He was a great favorite at the literary clubs, and was accorded a large salary as a contributor to *Puck*.

Clemens went abroad, and contributed letters from the Orient to American papers. These articles were then collected and published in book form under the title of "Innocents Abroad." The volume gave him a world-wide reputation at once. This was followed by "Roughing It," episodes of newspaper life, which added to his fame.

Then appeared those works which gave to the Mississippi River the character and individuality that history has given such old world rivers as the Thames and the Nile—"Old Times on the Mississippi," "Tom Sawyer," and "Huckleberry Finn." These he "wrote out of his own heart," and they will live because they have a perennial and universal interest. Of "Huckleberry Finn," especially, the luminous and discriminative critic, Prof. Brander Matthews, is enthusiastic in his praise. "'Huckleberry Finn' contains the picture of a civilization nowhere else adequately recorded in literature," he says. "It abounds in adventure and in character, in fun and in philosophy. It appears to me to be a work of extraordinary merit, and a better book of the same kind than 'Gil Blas,' richer in humor, and informed by a riper humanity."

"The Prince and the Pauper" is a beautiful idyl, inspired by social problems. His most serious work is the so-called personal recollections

of Joan of Arc, and is full of pathos and heroic elevation.

Should the fashion of humor change—and it does change, just as poets and prosists who are in vogue to-day may not be in vogue in the future—it is properly contended that he will live for other qualities. His humor, however, has the stamp of universality.

It is not always recalled that his story, "The Gilded Age," was written in conjunction with the scholarly Charles Dudley Warner. When dramatized and produced in 1874, with John T. Raymond in the rôle of Col. Mulberry Sellers, it had an extraordinary success.

Mark Twain's father was a citizen for many years of the Cumberland Mountain district of Tennessee, practicing law at the hamlet of Jamestown, Fentress County. A few years ago a Tennessean sent him a copy of "Tidd's Practice," a book used by his father when at Jamestown. The reply of the humorist was characteristic. He said he was glad to receive the book, since it contained his father's name in a handwriting that he recognized; but he wished it had been another than a law book, for he understood law less than any other man—unless it was his brother who was practicing in the West!

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Mark Twain's father was a de- years of the Cumberland River, analyzed those vast and shape-Tennessee, practicing his imagination animated and col-Jamestown, Fentress. India was present to the eye of a Tennesseean sent to the halls where suitors laid gold tice," a book that brought the feet of sovereigns to the town. There the gypsy camp was pitched; teristic. The camp, humming like a beehive with book, buyers and sellers, to the jungle hand. The courier shakes his bunch of it to scare away the hyenas. He had de an idea of the insurrection at Ben- ford George Gordon's riots, and of on of Nuncomar as of the execution id.

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Mississippi navigation, where in sounding a depth of two fathoms, the leadsman calls out to "mark twain!"

He met with financial reverses a few years ago, winning the deep sympathy of all who have heard of him; and he and his family went to Europe. The rights to one of his latest works brought him \$50,000, it is announced, and he is as courageously and successfully overcoming his financial embarrassment as Sir Walter Scott, who was led by money troubles to write the series of novels which made him famous as a novelist as well as a poet.

## ALBERT TAYLOR BLEDSOE

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MACAULAY, referring to Burk's knowledge of India, obtained entirely from books, says that in every part of those huge bales of information which repelled almost all other readers, his mind, at once philosophical and poetical, found something to instruct and de-



light. His reason analyzed those vast and shapeless masses; his imagination animated and colored them. All India was present to the eye of his mind, from the halls where suitors laid gold and perfume at the feet of sovereigns to the wild moor where the gypsy camp was pitched; from the bazaar, humming like a beehive with the crowd of buyers and sellers, to the jungle where the lonely courier shakes his bunch of iron wings to scare away the hyenas. He had just as lively an idea of the insurrection at Benares as of Lord George Gordon's riots, and of the execution of Nuncomar as of the execution of Dr. Dodd.

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## ALBERT TAYLOR BLEDSOE

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light. His reason analyzed those vast and shapeless masses; his imagination animated and colored them. All India was present to the eye of his mind, from the halls where suitors laid gold and perfume at the feet of sovereigns to the wild moor where the gypsy camp was pitched; from the bazaar, humming like a beehive with the crowd of buyers and sellers, to the jungle where the lonely courier shakes his bunch of iron wings to scare away the hyenas. He had just as lively an idea of the insurrection at Benares as of Lord George Gordon's riots, and of the execution of Nuncomar as of the execution of Dr. Dodd.

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This love of research among literary treasures—this wonderful grasp of information—was all characteristic of the subject of this paper; and is illustrated in short by the fact that sometime in 1864, while in the British Museum, he counted more than six hundred books he had read thoughtfully enough to remember the peculiar views of each individual author.

Dr. Bledsoe is declared by many to have been the South's greatest intellectual giant. Whether he was all his friends claimed or not, he was a wonderful man, conspicuous for his natural capacities and his acquirements, and hardly less so for his lack of certain elements that insure the completest success. Thomas Jefferson was a great man, but some of his writings show that he bore unmanly prejudices. Patrick Henry was a great man, but his sordid love of money was repellant. Dr. Bledsoe has his limitations, which are not referred to here for any other reason than in appreciation of the truth that the reputation that is considered paramount is in peril when it is finally discovered that it is, like other men's, not supreme.

The biographical facts of his life are these: He was born at Franklin, Ky., November 8, 1809. When only fifteen years of age he entered West Point Military Academy, was graduated in 1830, served as lieutenant in the army two

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years, then resigned to study law. At the end of a year he abandoned this and became Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Kenyon College, Ohio. A year later he took out orders in the Episcopal Church. In 1840 he resumed the law, practicing in Illinois. From 1848 to 1854 he was Professor of Mathematics in the University of Mississippi, where he was called to the same chair in the University of Virginia. He served awhile in the Confederate army during the war between the States, became Assistant Secretary of War in President Davis's Cabinet, resigned in 1863, and then went to England to procure material for a constitutional history of the United States, which he never finished. He began the publication of the *Southern Review* at Baltimore in 1867, uniting with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1871, and becoming a preacher, but not a pastor, when sixty-two years of age. He died December 8, 1877.

In a discriminative article in the *Quarterly Review* for July, 1893, Dr. Wilbur F. Tillett gives an insight into his mission. "Whatever Dr. Bledsoe thought about at all," declares Dr. Tillett, "he thought about deeply, profoundly, ardently. His life, thoughts, and energies seem to have gone out in three directions: in the line of his chosen mathematics, in defense of the

South and her institutions, and in maintaining the true doctrine of moral free agency."

His best-known published works are "Liberty and Slavery," "Is Davis a Traitor?" and "Theodicy, or Vindication of the Divine Glory." The first, published in 1857, served its purpose well, but is not of much interest now, except to show the reasoning power of a great thinker; for the passions awakened by the subject are quiet—details of it seeming to this generation concerned, as Scott's favorite quotation ran:

With things that are long enough ago,  
And with Dickie Macphalion that's slain.

The second, published in 1866, is said to have caused the release of Jefferson Davis, unjustly held by the United States authorities on the charge of treason. It is a powerfully written book, demolishing the charges made against the great Confederate leader. The last-mentioned work is a vindication of the justice of God in regard to the natural and moral evil that exists under his government. It is said to be his greatest effort, and the one on which his fame will rest.

As an editor he was at his best. In this position his erudition and vigor of expression came into display. He seemed informed on all subjects—science, art, politics, and literature. None of the greatest editors of his day surpassed him as a writer.

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He was decidedly combative. While he did not fear criticism, it fired him to resentment. It has been said of the Jesuit that if he was wanted at Lima he was on the Atlantic in the next fleet. If he was wanted at Bagdad, he was toiling through the desert with the next caravan. If his ministry was needed in some country where his life was more insecure than that of a wolf, where it was a crime to harbor him, where the heads and quarters of his brethren, fixed in the public places, showed him what to expect, he went without remonstrance or hesitation to his doom. Such courage was Dr. Bledsoe's. He uttered his convictions, though opposed by those out of the Church or in it, and when challenged he came off victor generally. His vehemence sometimes went to the extreme, however, so that there are critics who said that those who fell before him fell by the mighty battle-ax, and not the Damascus blade. This made bitter enemies often. Dr. Tillett, in the sketch referred to, tells this anecdote of him: "About 1876 or 1877 Dr. Bledsoe was fiercely assailed by Dr. R. L. Dabney in the *Southern Presbyterian Review*. It chanced that soon after this a friend, dropping into a barber shop at Alexandria, found Dr. Bledsoe in the tonsorial chair taking a shave. After shaking hands with him the friend remarked: 'Well, Doctor, I see Prof. Dabney

is after you.' That was enough. He pushed the barber out of the way, wobbled out of the chair, and took the floor. He was just half shaved, one side of his face being yet covered with lather. He was in his shirt sleeves, and a towel was suspended from his chin. Walking the floor and gesticulating violently, he declared that he had long waited for the Lord to deliver Dabney into his hands, and now at last his prayer was answered, and he would make thorough work with him. The barber looked on with amazement, and found it no easy task to get his half-shaven customer to resume the chair, while the friend enjoyed the embarrassment, and thought the scene one of the most ludicrous and laughable he had ever seen." It may be added that Dr. Bledsoe made thorough work with Dr. Dabney.

Many stories are told of the self-conceit of distinguished men. Tennyson, in reading his own poems in a social gathering, sometimes paused to observe that a certain passage was exquisite. It is related of Gen. Winfield Scott that once, when the enemy was making a stubborn resistance, he insisted on placing himself so that they could see him well, sincerely believing that his august presence would bring dismay to the foe. James T. Fields, while traveling in Europe, was invited by Thackeray to attend some

meeting and hear him make an address. Thackeray got up to speak, said a few words, floundered, and sat down. He had forgotten his piece. He was not the least embarrassed, but, turning to Fields, expressed great pity for the audience, who had thus been deprived of one of the most masterful addresses ever promised them! Dr. Bledsoe had some of this conceit. He was learned, but not eloquent as a speaker. He was invited on one occasion to make an address at the commencement exercises of an Alabama college. An expectant crowd greeted him, composed of many distinguished men as well as the commonalty. He arose and laid down a great pile of manuscript, and for two hours read therefrom. The audience were worn out and disappointed. He seemed to notice it, but afterwards remarked to a member of the faculty: "I rather think you have overshot your audience in your speaker this commencement." He considered the want of appreciation due to the lack of intellect on the part of the audience.

Dr. Bledsoe had few business qualifications and realized little from his books.

## HENRY WATTERSON.

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BYRON was born in the purple of English aristocracy, and Whittier was a poor farmer's boy; Shelley was the son of a man who prided himself on his descent from a long line of British squires, and Poe was the offspring of strolling players who

died in poverty; Swinburne's father was a baronet, and Timrod was the son of a bookbinder—and yet their ancestry had little to do, perhaps, with these men's success as poets.

Good birth, however, it has been said, often argues good breeding, refinement, and education. Whether it was of advantage or not to Henry Watterson, he was born of good parentage. His father, Hon. Harvey M. Watterson, was a native of Bedford County, Tenn., and was a member of Congress in 1839 and 1843, when he declined a reëlection. He was also sent on a diplomatic mission to Buenos Ayres. He won success in journalism, having been

owner and editor of the *Nashville Union*, and later one of the editors of a well-known Washington paper. He was a Douglas Democrat, having been an elector for the State at large on that ticket before removing from Tennessee. For a number of years he practiced law in Washington.

Though Henry was born in the District of Columbia, he has always been claimed by Tennesseans as a son of the Volunteer State. His earlier years were passed near the little town of McMinnville, in the mountain section of Tennessee. When the civil war came up, although defective in eyesight, he cast his fortunes with the South, giving up journalism in the capital of the nation. He served in the army in various capacities, being a staff officer for two years and chief of scouts in the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston later on. He became prominent during hostilities—not so much as a soldier, however, as the editor of a paper called *The Rebel*. This paper had a precarious existence, its place of publication being anywhere within the lines that proved free for a few weeks from the intrusion of the Federal army.

After the war, the profession of journalism proving to his taste, he became connected with various papers at various times, convincing the public of his ability with the pen. Finally,

when George D. Prentice, of the *Louisville Journal*, died, he secured an interest in the property in 1872, becoming the editor in chief of two consolidated papers, the *Times* and the *Journal*. He has held that position ever since, his paper taking the name of the *Courier-Journal*.

Prentice was an editor who made his impress on the times. He was a fine editorial writer, a master of invective, a splendid logician, a poet and a wit, and was, moreover, the first to use the editorial paragraph with success on the daily paper. He had a national reputation, and Prentice's paper was copied and his positions commented on in all sections of the Union. Would the new editor prove worthy of the mantle which had fallen on him? Would not the wonderful success of his predecessor overshadow him, calling for comparisons that would not be to his advantage? In a later day we have seen Alfred Austin made the successor, as poet laureate, of the greatest poet of the nineteenth century, and realize how the public has resented the succession, scarcely giving to the new laureate a modicum of the praise he deserves as a minor poet even.

But it took but a short while to convince the people that the pen was mighty in the hands of Watterson. The Louisville paper he edited became one of the most influential of the period,

and the editor took rank with such able newspaper men as Charles A. Dana, of the *New York Sun*, and Samuel Bowles, of the *Springfield Republican*.

His style was something new. While Prentice was excellent in the paragraph, Watterson's power lay in his column leaders—"column paragraphs," as some of his contemporaries speak of them. In these leaders there were at once logic, humor, pathos, badinage, ridicule, learning, wisdom, irony; they were broadsides which never failed to affect—which the Democratic party enjoyed and longed for, and which the Republicans appreciated while dreading.

Watterson became prominent at a time when political conditions gave point to his wit. One of his skits became the property of hundreds of Democratic stump speakers a few years ago—the story of Abram Jasper's dream—and no doubt it cost the Republicans many a vote. "Fellah-freeman," he declared Jasper to have said, "you all knows me. I'se Abram Jasper, a Republican from 'way back. When dey's been any work to do, I'se done it. When dey's been any votin' to do, I'se voted 'arly an' late. I'm bombproof, old line, an' tax paid. An' I has seed many changes, too. I has seed the Republicans up; I has seed the Democrats up; but I is yet to see a nigger up. Ter-night I had a

dream. I dreams I died and went to heaven. When I re'ched de pearly gates, old Salt Peter he ups an' says: 'Who's dar?' sez he.

"'Abram Jasper,' sez I.

"'Is you mounted, or is you afoot?' sez he.

"'I is afoot,' sez I.

"'Well, you can't come in here,' sez he. 'Nobody 'lowed in here cepts dem as comes mounted,' says he.

"'Dat's hard on me,' sez I, 'atter comin' all dat distance.' But he never sez nothin' mo'; an' so I starts back, an' 'bout halfway down de hill who does I meet but dat good ol' Horace Greeley.

"'Whar's you gwine, Mistah Greeley?' sez I.

"'I's gwine to heaben wid Charles Sumner,' sez he.

"'Taint no use,' sez I—'taint no use. I dess been up dar, an' nobody's 'lowed to come in 'cepts dey comes mounted, an' you's afoot.'

"'Is dat so?' sez he. Den he sorter scratch his head, an' sez: 'Abram, you is a likely lad. 'Sposen you git down on all fours, an' Sumner an' me'll ride you in, an' dat way we can all git in.'

"'Genelmens,' sez I, 'do you think you can work it?'

"'I know we can,' sez boff.

"'So down I gits on all fours, an' Greeley and

Sumner gits astraddle. We ambles up de hill again, an' prances up to de gate, an' ol' Salt Peter he sez: 'Who's dar?' he sez.

"'We's Charles Sumner an' Horace Greeley,' shouts Mistah Greeley.

"'Is you boff mounted, or is you afoot?' sez Peter.

"'We is boff mounted,' sez Mistah Greeley.

"'All right,' sez Peter, sez he, 'dess hitch your horse outside, genelmen, an' come right in!'"

The meaning of this was apparent—that antislavery Republicans like Sumner and Greeley only loved the negro for his vote.

A reduction of the tariff has long been a demand made by Watterson, and he has done more than any other Democrat since the war to bind his party to that doctrine. He sat for Kentucky as delegate in four Democratic conventions, and presided over the St. Louis convention in 1876.

Of late years he claims that he aspires no longer to be a leader in Democratic councils. He traveled extensively in Europe in 1896, presumably to be free from the worry of politics. He has appeared often on the platform in his well-known lectures, "Money and Morals" and "Abraham Lincoln," and is an orator of great power. He has edited a volume entitled "Southern Life," containing extracts from the

humorous writings of A. B. Longstreet, Bill Arp, Prentice, and others. He has also written a work on the Spanish and American war, and has in preparation a "Life of Lincoln," of whose statesmanship he is a great admirer.

Besides being an orator, Watterson is without doubt the greatest secular editor the South has produced. He served in Congress one term since the war.

## GEORGE W. CABLE.

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AFTER the civil war there was a renewed interest manifested in literature by the Southern people. Quite a number of writers in prose and verse sprang into more than local prominence. Among the best-known prosists was John Esten Cooke, who had been a



Confederate soldier under Gen. Lee. He had published a number of volumes before 1861, but they did not meet with the success of "Surrey of Eagle's Nest" and "Mohun; or, The Last Days of Lee and His Paladins." These were very popular, and are read yet with absorbing interest. They are semihistorical, and in them we get vivid pen pictures of Stonewall Jackson, the gallant Stuart, the impulsive Ashby, and the boy hero Pelham, as well as of Southern phases of life that are true and entertaining, if somewhat florid in coloring. His histories, too, are as fascinating as his fiction.

Then there were the popular romances of Mrs. Terhune (Marion Harland), that found readers in all sections; and the less meritorious productions of Mrs. S. A. Dorsey, who willed her valuable estate to Hon. Jefferson Davis. Histories of great value and some literary merit were put before the public, while poetry in a minor key, or a little above that, as in the poetry of Mrs. Preston, showed that interest in letters had taken a new impetus.

But Southern literature began to attract the national public more particularly after 1870, when Richard Malcolm Johnston's, Thomas Nelson Page's, and George W. Cable's first laudable efforts appeared in the magazines. About this time, too, Augusta Evans began to do her most notable work.

Johnston, born in 1822, did not essay literature till late in life. "The Dukesborough Tales," published in 1871, won him immediate popularity, and this was his most representative work, though it was followed by "Georgia Sketches" and "Old Mark Langston." The North recognized his genius, and always appreciated what he wrote as much as the South.

When there appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* the series of short stories on Creole life, by Cable, there was no longer any doubt that the Southern writers were impressing their work on

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the public. Their publication was recognized as a real literary event.

Cable was born in New Orleans in 1844, of colonial Virginia stock on the one side and New England on the other. He now resides in the North. Some of his writings have given offense to the Southern people, and they do not hold him in the reverence which it would seem his genius should inspire. The Creole population, whom he has affectionately depicted, have especially resented the liberty he took in bringing them into publicity. They have an idea that he has given the world an impression that the Louisiana Creole is of African taint, but this assumption is more apparent than real.

Perhaps "The Grandissimes" is Cable's most ambitious work. It is, as the critics contend, an important contribution to representative literature. In it "he has essayed the history of a civilization, and the result is a great book." While he was for a while editor of *Current Literature*, he has generally devoted himself to writing books. He has given readings from his works in England, and in that country received every token of appreciation. As Irving wrote the first short stories, and Poe the earliest detective novels, Cable was among the first Americans to give, in "Old Creole Days," the short story its present vogue.

## HOLLAND N. M'TYEIRE.

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SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, writing of a great Persian author of the twelfth century, says that it was asked of him: "Of whom didst thou learn manners?"

"From the unmannerly," the Persian replied. "Whatever I saw them do which I disapproved

of, that I abstained from."

The Grecians had a way of impressing the vice and disgust of intemperance on the young people by placing the drunkards in the public places to be stared at.

No doubt all this was the part of wisdom, but as good a lesson on the advantages of living properly may be learned from studying the lives of good men. Longfellow truthfully says their careers remind us that we can also make our lives sublime.

And in this connection who presents greater claims to our admiration than Dr. McTyeire? Said a distinguished divine of him not long

since: "I have known some of the leading men of the nation, but Bishop McTyeire was the greatest man I ever saw. Perfectly practical, though a genius; not eloquent, I should say, but one who threw out to his audience great slugs and chunks of wisdom."

He was a Virginian by birth, and his first appointment after reaching his majority was Williamsburg, the seat of the College of William and Mary. It is said that he never thought much of that effort. Perhaps his congregation were not enamored of it either; but they did not know that the ancient saw would prove applicable to the tedious young man before them:

But call not the jungle empty; maybe

A tiger sleeps there that ye did not see.

After years proved that a tiger was asleep in the jungle. His aim was to do well and profitably the work he undertook, and consequently he was from the beginning his own severest critic. As early as 1852, some six years after he began to preach, he made this comment on a sermon delivered in New Orleans: "Delivered it clumsily, with little effect. People shut both eyes—to sleep; at least so did a number."

Overconfidence is the bane of too many of the young; and when they believe themselves perfect, not needing the advantages that come of hard study and preparedness, failure is the re-

sult as a general rule. Watchfulness of his weak points and implicit confidence in the axiom that there is no excellence without great labor, made this man the power he became in the Church.

His rise was gradual and sure, and from that beginning at Williamsburg here is his record:

He was pastor of various Churches from 1845 to 1851, when he was elected editor of the *New Orleans Christian Advocate*.

In 1858 he became editor of the *Nashville Christian Advocate*.

In 1866 he was elected bishop, and in addition to this was made President of the Board of Vanderbilt University, by the terms of the gift of Cornelius Vanderbilt founding that institution.

Although he became such an important figure in the Church, he never sought the more important pastorates. Much of his early preaching was to the negroes, and he delighted to preach to the common people, from whom he sprang. It is recorded that after he had been thirty or thirty-five years in the ministry his habit was to get in his buggy on Sunday mornings and ride to a mission church or suburban chapel and, unannounced, fill the pulpit, to the happiness and benefit of his hearers.

He was not what we would term a bookworm,

though his discourses show the embellishment which comes of careful reading. He was a close student of select books, and his favorites were Lord Bacon, Jonathan Edwards, Jeremy Taylor, Archbishop Leighton, Dr. South, Hooker, and Barrow. The characters of the Old Testament were to him of more interest than other biblical characters, perhaps—such as Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Daniel, and David. Into these, says one writer, he could breathe the breath of life, and make them move through his sermons as creatures of flesh and blood.

Of all the Methodist memorialists, he was no doubt one of the masters; and this was why he was called upon to preach the funeral sermons of so many distinguished persons. He preached the memorial discourses on the deaths of Bishops Soule, Early, Paine, Kavanaugh, Doggett, and Marvin, and of Dr. J. B. McFerrin and Commodore Vanderbilt.

Courage to rebuke frivolity and wickedness in high places was one of Dr. McTyeire's characteristics. Among the sublime characters of Scripture is the Tishbite, who unawed stood before Ahab and told him what should befall the land for his wickedness; who denounced the king and Jezebel for their crime against Naboth. His courage lifts him to an altitude. This trait was

an admirable one in McTyeire, and an instance of it was given when one Sunday morning in 1856 he preached a scathing sermon to a fashionable audience in New Orleans. "Hard ground to plow," he afterwards commented. "Made a few straight furrows and pretty deep. Heard afterwards that it was not liked by some of the chief estates. Could not say less."

A distinguished divine, recently withdrawing from a certain denomination because an apostle of that species of refined infidelity, higher criticism, was admitted therein, affirmed that other ministers would withdraw if it were not for fear of starvation coming to their families. How needful in such cases the McTyeire courage which rebuked wrong, no matter the consequences!

Dr. John J. Tigert, the scholarly Book Editor of the M. E. Church, South, thus refers to the Bishop: "Perspicuity was a leading element in both his preaching and writing. He was nothing if not clear. He never indulged in the hair-splitting distinctions of metaphysics, or attempted before popular audiences the exposition of the obscurer Christian doctrines. . . . Weightiness of utterance, no less than perspicuity, was one of the most striking features of his preaching. As in the case of Daniel Webster, 'Every word seemed to weigh a pound.' Some-

times a single sentence would startle, not like the crack of a whip, but like the discharge of a cannon."

The "History of Methodism" is a monument to his research and literary effort. Vanderbilt University—which he made possible—is a monument to his love of education and the youth of the land.

While Bishop McTyeire can hardly be classed with the orators, there were times, as in the case of Dr. J. B. McFerrin, when he was eloquent. His discourse on "I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness" is described by those who heard it as a prose poem.

## SIDNEY LANIER.

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THE star of Sidney Lanier's fame rose only as the sun of his life was sinking. Though he is now being recognized as he should be in France, England, and America, and as his genius deserved, during the latter part of his life, while struggling with consump-

tion, he was forced to earn his bread by lecturing during the day in the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and playing the flute in the Peabody concerts at night.

What worth is eulogy's blandest breath  
When whispered in ears that are hushed in death?

Lanier was born in Macon, Ga., in 1842; and in 1881 died in the mountains of North Carolina, whither he had gone in hope of a short respite from the disease with which he had wrestled for fifteen years. He served in the Confederate army in the war between the North and South. Afterwards he practiced law in the city of Macon, but in 1873 moved to Baltimore. There,

as he found time, he did much of his literary work, though previous to his removal he published a novel entitled "Tiger Lilies." This work was entertaining, the earlier scenes being laid in the Tennessee mountains, when shifting with the Army of Virginia. The style is paragrammatical. "Tiger Lilies" met with as little success as Hawthorne's first work.

His other prose works are several books for boys, and "The Science of English Verse" and "The English Novel." After his death his lectures were published by a Northern firm. They show him to be an excellent critic and a master of style.

It is perhaps as a poet that his name will live. His place in our literature is secure; but, as has been suggested, it is not fixed, for it is becoming higher the more his poetry is read and studied. A distinguished female critic of France, Madame Blanc, said in a recent article: "To pronounce a eulogy upon poetry is indirectly to speak of Sidney Lanier, for, whatever may be thought of his work, he was *par excellence* a poet in the superhuman acceptance of that ideal term—that is to say, not merely a skillful chiseler of rhymes, but an exceptional being, penetrated with the worship of the beautiful, whose every act was an utterance of the music of his soul. . . . Never was a nobler song

wafted to heaven than the life of Lanier. It showed, a rare example at the present day, the combat of an invincible will, sovereign sure of itself, against the most terrible obstacles, poverty, sickness, death, all held in check by a superior power that yielded not until at God's command."

She considers Lanier the superior of Poe, and has evidently imbibed even the slanders relative to the latter's personal life. "There are two geniuses who hover over the charming city of Baltimore," she continues, "slumbering all rosy red beneath what is almost a Southern sun: the one more celebrated among foreigners than in his own country; the other almost absolutely unknown in Europe. Their names: Edgar Allan Poe and Sidney Lanier, the Ahriman and the Ormuzd of the place, the demon of perversity and the angel of light; the former carried away by morbid passions that conducted him to an ignominious end, the latter faithful to the purest ideal in his life as in his work; both marked by fate for the victims of a frightful poverty; both doomed to die young, at almost the same age, after having long suffered from a hopeless malady."

Soiling another does not make one's self clean, says Tennyson. Abuse of Poe is not necessary to make Lanier's worth apparent.

After the failure of "Tiger Lilies," Lanier continued "sending his poems to the magazines and getting them back again—the proverbial editor on the lookout for budding genius proving most chimerical," to quote Mr. Richard Burton. "Corn," a representative piece, found its way into *Lippincott's Magazine*, however, and soon the *Century* and the *Independent* opened their doors to him.

His characteristics as a poet were technical mastery equal to that of Tennyson, original thought, and spiritual fervor. It is true that he was a pantheist who felt God in everything. His best work, the culmination of his thought and spiritual force, is found in the "Hymns of the Marshes," and especially in "The Marshes of Glynn" and in "Sunrise," which have been termed magnificent imaginative organ chants. The finest of these was written while the author was lying so weak that he could not lift his hand to his mouth.

Among his other most admired poems are "My Springs," "Ballad of Trees and the Master," "Life and Song," and "The Crystal."

Of the minor poets of America Lanier stands at the head. Indeed, it will not be a surprise to the critical and unbiased mind if the future shall rank him with Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, and Poe as the five greatest American poets.

## MARY N. MURFREE.

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ABOUT one mile north of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, there is a plain, unpretentious cottage. It is situated on a small farm, notable mainly for its apparent lack of fertility. The surrounding scenery is not attractive, the land being rolling and the trees

somewhat scrubby; but in that cottage and on that farm resides one of the most admired Southern writers, Miss Mary N. Murfree, whose stories of the Tennessee mountains have given her the prominent place she holds in American literature.

Miss Murfree was born about the year 1850, and comes of one of the oldest and best families of the State. Murfreesboro, at one time the capital of Tennessee, was named for one of her ancestors. While she had written considerable from girlhood, her first work did not appear until she was nearly thirty-five years of age. This was called "Where the Battle Was

Fought," which, though not a success, gave much promise of her power as a writer of stories. No publisher desired it, it is said, until the great favor accorded the sketches "In the Tennessee Mountains" opened the way.

Like many another writer, financial embarrassment coming to the family induced her to turn seriously to her pen, and the result has been to the gain of the public. She adopted the pseudonym of "Charles Egbert Craddock," and her work was offered to the editors under that name. They noticed no indication of femininity in her letters or her strongly written work, and were much surprised to learn that she was a woman. On her first visit to them after the sensation created by her stories it is related that they would hardly believe that the lady introduced as Miss Murfree was "Charles Egbert Craddock." As in the case of Samuel L. Clemens, she is better known now by her pen name than by her real name.

Miss Murfree might have been a successful landscape painter. The fine descriptions of the majestic phases of nature are indicative of this. There are few finer descriptions than those she has given of the mountains she loves so well. They, as well as her virile portraiture of the sturdy mountaineers, come of a long sojourn among such scenes as she has put in her books, and are

not from second-hand sources. In the Tennessee mountains she found her field, and, like Thomas Nelson Page and R. M. Johnston, has enriched literature no little by this devotion to the possibilities of her section. Here is a description that stands out like the pictured canvas of a master:

An early moon was riding, clear and full, over this wild spur of the Alleghanies; the stars were few and very faint; even the great Scorpio lurked vaguely outlined above the wooded ranges; and the white mist that filled the long, deep, narrow valley between the parallel lines of mountains shimmered with opalescent gleams.

This picture is from "The Dancin' Party at Harrison's Cove:"

The clear luster shone white upon all the dark woods and chasms and flashing waters that lay between the New Helvetia Springs and the wide, deep ravine called Harrison's Cove, where from a rude log hut came the vibrations of a violin and the quick throb of dancing feet, already mingled with the impetuous rush of a mountain stream close by, and the weird night sounds of the hills, the cry of birds among the tall trees, the stir of the wind, the monotonous chanting of the frogs at the waterside, the long, drowsy drone of the nocturnal insects, the sudden faint blast of a distant hunting horn, and the far bay-ing of hounds.

The following is a faithful photograph of a certain type of mountain women:

Not mere cheerful was Mrs. Johns. She was tall and lank, and with such a face as one never sees except in the mountains—elongated, sallow, thin, with pathetic, deeply sunken eyes, and high cheek bones, and so settled an expression of hopeless melancholy that it must be that nothing but care and suffering had been her lot; holding out wasted hands to the years as they pass—holding them out always, and always empty.

Says a critic in reference to the Tennessee authoress's characteristics:

In Old Sledge "at the settlement," the picture of the group of card players throwing their cards on the inverted splint basket by the light of the tallow dips and a pitch pine fire, while the moon shines without, and the uncanny echoes ring through the rocks and woods, is as graphic as one of Spagnoletto's paintings. And she has done a gentler and even more sympathetic service in depicting the lonely, self-reliant, half-mournful life of the mountain women whom she loves, particularly the young women, pure, sweet, naïve, innocent of all evil. The older women "hold out wasted hands to the years as they pass—holding them out always, and always empty;" but in drawing her old women Miss Murfree brightens her somewhat somber pictures by their shrewd fun and keen knowledge of human nature. Mrs. Purvine is a stroke of genius. Nor could Miss Murfree's stories have won their wide popularity with an American audience without a sense of humor, which is to her landscape as the sun to the mist.

The novels which have added most to Miss

Murfree's reputation are: "In the Tennessee Mountains," "In the Clouds," and "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountains." "The Story of Old Fort Loudon" is her latest contribution to fiction, and appeared in 1898, the scene being laid in the eastern portion of East Tennessee in the eighteenth century. It is a historical novel, and is perhaps made less interesting by a too faithful adherence to facts. However, some of the characterizations—especially of the Cherokee chiefs—are strong, and her love of the mountains is apparent throughout.

She and her sister write much, and are valued contributors to the leading magazines of America. Few people are more averse to notoriety than she, and her life is therefore spent in comparative seclusion. In a conversation with the well-known poet, James Whitcomb Riley, the authoress of "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountains" was mentioned, and he said to the writer of this article: "I suppose Tennesseans, as well as all Southerners, are proud of Miss Murfree, one of the greatest of American dialect writers. She is a wonderful woman." A compliment as merited as it was unselfishly extended.

## JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS.

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It is a little amusing to look into a volume of Southern writers, published soon after the war, and find Joel Chandler Harris treated mainly as a writer of verse—not that he was not possessed of poetical possibilities, but because his success has been in

so different a field; and speaking of him as a poet calls for this tender little poem on the old and new years by way of illustration:

Clasp hands with those who are going,  
Kiss the lips that are raised to be kissed;  
For the life of the old year is flowing  
And melting away in the mist.

A shadow lies black on the water,  
A silence hangs over the hill;  
And the echo comes fainter and shorter  
From the river that runs by the mill.

Greet the new year with music and laughter;  
Let the old shrink away with a tear!  
But we shall remember hereafter  
The many who die with the year.

Before the appearance of Harris's "Uncle Remus," in 1880, the negro was known to literature through "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a very popular book, and one that had much influence in destroying the institution of slavery, but a book of little literary merit and less truth where the negro was concerned. It was written by a resident of the North, but the authoress's portrayal of the negro character was much like an artist endeavoring to paint a portrait of a person never seen by him, and never faithfully described. "Uncle Remus" is a true type, and the world will not controvert the fact.

Harris was born in Georgia in 1848, and his life was passed among the characters he depicts so well. Like William D. Howells, one of America's representative literary men, he began life as a typesetter. He then studied and practiced law, but finally took up journalism. He was for years one of the editors of the great Southern daily, the *Atlanta Constitution*, but recently resigned.

The writer of this sketch recalls with pleasure a visit to the distinguished litterateur in his sanctum in the *Constitution* building. Harris was then in his fiftieth year—a person of grave cast of countenance, but pleasant though shy in manners, about five feet ten inches in stature, and beginning to show his age. He sat at work

with his hat on, and there was little to distinguish him from the ordinary, hard-working, methodical newspaper man. "Yes," said he, in reply to a question, "I have published sixteen volumes of—trash." The reply was indicative of his modesty; he does not, for all his success, assume the rôle of lion.

Many stories are told of his shyness. He was once in New York looking after his publications, and the literary set prepared to give him a reception. As soon as he heard of it he took the next train for the South. On another occasion the celebrated dialect poet, James Whitcomb Riley, while in Atlanta, expressed a desire to meet him. A mutual friend informed him that he would have to come on Harris unawares; and, acting on this advice, he called on the creator of "Uncle Remus" without warning, and in that way had the pleasure of meeting him. He is as retiring and modest as Hawthorne and Cowper were, though as much of a celebrity.

The position of the negro is an anomalous one. He is midway between the whites and the animals Uncle Remus knows so much of. This is perhaps the reason he has such an affection for the lower animals, and this may account for the fact that every negro has a number of dogs around his house, whether able to

feed himself well or not. Harris appreciates his position—the negro's philosophy, so pathetic because born of helplessness; his humor, that sustains him despite his hard lot; and so Sis Tempey and Tildy and Uncle Remus are drawn with such fidelity that they seem flesh and blood.

Harris's position in literature is high and permanent. He is said by some to be the most popular of American writers. He is known the world over, and his principal books have received translations into a number of languages.

## JAMES LANE ALLEN.

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THE superlative in criticism is always dangerous, but it is perhaps not venturing too much to say that the best American novel yet written is Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter."

Of all the novelists coming after him, James

Lane Allen is perhaps the most remindful. This is not to mean that Allen is an imitator, but there is a grace about his style and a pleasing sincerity of manner that almost approach the characteristics of the New England novelist. The Hawthorne of the South would not be an inappropriate title.

He was born on a farm in 1850, near Lexington, Ky., a country world-famous for its stately homes and green pastures. There were spent his childhood and youth. His early manhood was passed as a school-teacher. While following his vocation he wrote poems and critical essays, but his first important work was a series

of articles descriptive of the blue grass region, published in *Harper's Magazine*. His ability was at once recognized by the public, but the public did not know how much he had toiled to acquire the style which is so pleasing. His mastery of English, it is said by those who knew his early days, was acquired with great difficulty, and his knowledge of Latin was gained through years of instruction as well as study. It has been a mooted question as to whether style, that pleasing way of saying things which attracts us, is natural or acquired. Those who have set themselves up to advise on the subject say that the art is acquired only after the greatest effort, that practice alone makes perfect. Others, disagreeing, aver that style is often natural, just as some people are better talkers, as Aaron was better than Moses; and they refer to John Bunyan and Washington Irving, who had few educational advantages and little training, and were yet possessed of "styles" not surpassed by the most cultured and painstaking. Lane, however, may prove that a style can be secured through great labor, though one has little natural adaptation.

His first stories, written after he had studied the Trappist Monastery and the Convent of Loretto, as well as the records of the Catholic Church in Kentucky, were "The White Cowl"

and "Sister Dolorosa." They appeared in the *Century Magazine*, and few people can read the first and not ever afterwards recall it as one of the most thoroughly interesting stories of the day, although hardly equal from a literary standpoint to his later work.

"A Kentucky Cardinal" and "A Summer in Arcady" are justly admired, but the "Choir Invisible" is so far his best and most popular novel. It might have been improved had the author moralized less, or at least introduced his moralizing in a briefer and less obtrusive way. All Lane's stories have a historical background, and in the "Choir Invisible" pioneer Kentucky of the eighteenth century exists. Its publication was delayed a few weeks after the date announced for it to appear, and fifteen thousand copies were sold before it left the bindery. It has been one of the popular novels of the past five years, and has won its author an enviable reputation in the literary world.

His books deal with moods more than action. There is little that is dramatic in any of them; their problems are spiritual, not physical. His realism has always a poetical aspect, as has been said by a critic, and his books tend toward "the higher way of life." An admirer declares regarding the "Choir Invisible" that "not since Hawthorne in American prose, and Thack-

eray in English classics, have words flown so straight, yet on so light and effortless a wing;" and "in reviewing Mr. Allen's work, one characteristic grows clearer. We have it in the unusual blending of realism and poetry; of a sincerity, which is the foe of sentimentalism, with a passion for beauty that brings it to the service of ideal ends."

Some one has suggested that the best novels of a majority of the writers in England and America have brought fame before their authors reached their thirtieth year. Exceptions are found in at least two Southern writers, Miss Murfree and James Lane Allen.

